

RIDE Career and Technical Education Programs: CTE Teacher Grants

Rhode Island Department of Education

Office of College and Career Readiness

Release Date: March 14, 2025

Application Due Date: April 11, 2025



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

As of 3/14/2025

Purpose of CTE Teacher Grants

The CTE Teacher Grants are designed to build a pipeline of qualified CTE teachers, and continuously improve the practice of the existing teacher workforce through professional learning. Leveraging part of the secondary Perkins V Reserve Funds to support the certification and the training of CTE teachers, LEAs may apply for these funds to pay for the costs associated with providing professional learning for CTE teachers and for reimbursing teachers for the cost of certification to teach in their CTE programs.

Application Timeline

Step	Date
Grant application released	March 14, 2025
Deadline for application submission	April 11, 2025 (5:00pm EST)
RIDE announces grant winners	Late April / Early May 2025

Grant Duration, Amounts, and Opportunities

While the need for CTE programming aligned to labor markets demands is high, we know that Rhode Island schools and districts are reporting significant shortages of CTE teachers. Therefore, to further strengthen the CTE teacher pipeline, and in response to district feedback, we are thrilled to be able to provide financial incentives for LEAs to attract, support, and retain talented CTE teachers, especially those with industry experience and in priority sectors. Not only does Rhode Island need a strong pipeline to get qualified CTE teachers in front of students, these teachers also need ongoing learning and professional development to be effective.

Depending on interest, demand, and quality of application, RIDE will award as many applications as possible. **Once awarded, please note that LEAs may not begin expenditure until FY26: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.**

- For CTE teacher certification, RIDE will pay up to \$7,500 per teacher.
 - Note for teachers already in certification programs: *Grant funds may not be used to retroactively pay for a teacher’s tuition; only the balance of the program will be covered.*
- For CTE teacher professional development, RIDE will review applications as they are submitted and approve at RIDE’s discretion.

Funds will be awarded competitively, according to the application’s criteria. Therefore, RIDE may not be able to fund the total number of grants for which an LEA applies.

Possible Use of Funds:

Again, LEAs may apply for these grants to fund CTE teacher certification requirements, including costs associated with NOCTI exams and credential reviews, and/or to provide professional learning opportunities for their CTE teachers, including costs associated with professional development required for some CTE teachers to maintain industry-related certifications/credentials (e.g., PLTW). Additionally, these professional development funds may be used to cover costs associated with teachers' contractual rate for participating in the PD activity. However, please be aware that these funds may not be used to pay for costs associated with Emergency Teacher Certifications.

RIDE offers the following information for LEAs to consider for CTE teacher certification and professional development:

For CTE Teacher Certification:

- **CTE Teacher Certification—Roger Williams University:** This CTE Teacher Certification program is located at Roger Williams's University College and provides a competency-based education designed with working adults in mind. Assignments are designed to be practical, job-embedded, and closely connected to classroom learning. Micro-courses are held each month with additional learning experiences, resources, and assignments available at all times. *Cost for this certification program is \$7,000. Please visit the [site](#) for all program application information. And please note that required NOCTI exams are approximately \$100 per exam.*

For CTE Teacher Professional Learning:

- Priority will be given to professional learning activities aimed at supporting priority industry sectors (i.e., *Bioscience, Business, Construction, Defense, Education, Healthcare, Hospitality and Tourism, Industrial Design, Informational Technology, Manufacturing, and Marine Trades*). In short, professional learning must provide the CTE teacher with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively deliver the CTE program's curriculum to its students.
- Costs associated with professional development required to maintain industry-related certifications/credentials are allowable (e.g., funds may be used for teachers to receive mandatory training on PLTW curriculum requirements).
- Costs associated with covering teachers' contractual rate for participating in professional learning activities outside of the contractual teaching day.
- Middle to high school transition/feeder programming costs.

What Entities Are Eligible to Apply?

All Rhode Island local education agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply.

Grant Priorities/Requirements

When possible, RIDE will make funding decisions that seek to redress underrepresentation in the workforce and inequities in the schools. Therefore, please note that the ‘Recommendations’ are encouraged but are not required criteria for this grant process.

1. For CTE Teacher Certification:

- a. **Requirement:** The number of students in which this teacher will serve.
- b. **Requirement:** Whether the teacher certification is to support a new CTE program or to grow an existing program.
- c. **Recommendation:** The district will take steps to ensure that the CTE teacher will remain teaching full-time in the district for which they are employed and for at least two years in the program for which they were certified, as applicable.
- d. **Recommendation:** The CTE teacher’s career cluster area aligns to one of the priority industry sectors as determined by the Governor’s Workforce Board.
- e. **Recommendation:** The CTE teacher is currently employed in a Title I district.
- f. **Recommendation:** The recruitment of diverse CTE teachers.
- g. **Requirement:** Indicate the total cost associated with certification.
- h. **Requirement:** The type of certification required to teach in this CTE program ([use this document](#) for specifics).

2. For CTE Teacher Professional Learning:

- a. **Requirement:** The professional learning opportunities offered must be relevant (i.e., tied to teachers’ specific career clusters), differentiated (i.e., meets teachers where they are), purposeful (i.e., transferrable knowledge and skills), and sustained (i.e., no ‘one-off’ workshops) to improve and build upon CTE teachers’ practice and support student outcomes.
- b. **Requirement:** LEAs must be able to articulate specifically how the above criteria—*relevant, differentiated, purposeful, and sustained*—will be met for each professional learning activity offered.
- c. **Requirement:** LEAs must be able to articulate how the professional learning activity directly connects to the [CTE Industry Standards](#) for which the program is approved.
- d. **Requirement:** The number of students in which this teacher will serve.
- e. **Requirement:** Whether the professional learning activity is to support teachers in a new CTE program or to grow an existing program.
- f. **Recommendation:** The professional learning activity(ies) support(s) one of the [priority industry sectors](#).
- g. **Recommendation:** The professional learning activity supports the skills and knowledge necessary to establish a coherent ‘feeder program’ between middle schools and high schools.

Submission Procedure

Applicants must submit their application using the online form located on the [CTE Funding section of the CTE website](#) under “Grant Opportunities” by 5pm on Friday April 11, 2025.

Additional application materials are also located on the [CTE Funding section of the CTE website](#), including an alternative application process for those LEAs that may be in the process of hiring—or believe they will need to hire—for a vacant position in one of their CTE programs.

Please see the list below for application planning purposes. You will be required to submit this information on your official application:

1. Application Signature Sheet

- Superintendent signature
- CTE Director/Coordinator signature
- For CTE Teacher Certification:
 - Signatures of teacher(s) receiving funds for certification
 - Name of postsecondary certification program(s)
- For CTE Teacher Professional Learning:
 - Signatures of teacher(s) receiving professional learning
 - If available, a copy of vendor/provider contract detailing scope of work for each professional learning activity offered

2. Teacher/PL Provider Information

- For CTE Teacher Certification:
 - Identification and information of each teacher recipient, including the following:
 - LEA demographic information
 - Length of time the teacher has been working in the district and any other school-related experience, including teacher’s career cluster for which they are seeking certification
 - CTE Teacher’s RIDE certification information
- For CTE Teacher Professional Learning:
 - Identification and information of professional learning provider(s)
 - Required content offered for industry-related certification (e.g., PLTW). If the PL activity is not required to maintain industry-related credentials, identify how each professional learning activity will improve CTE teacher practice and student outcomes

3. Budget/Expenses Information

- Brief recap of prior cycle’s CTE Teacher Grant awarded funds status (if applicable)
- For CTE Teacher Certification:
 - Certification program information:
 - Costs per teacher for completing certification program (max: \$7,500)
 - Again, funds will only cover the balance of the certification program, no retroactive funding
 - Applicable UCOA account codes that align to CTE program area. [Please consult the manual for accurate identification.](#)



- For CTE Teacher Professional Learning (PL):
 - Professional Learning provider information:
 - Costs associated with each proposed professional learning opportunity
 - Breakdown of provider costs and teacher contractual rate/fringe
 - Applicable UCOA account codes that align to CTE program area. [Please consult the manual for accurate identification.](#)
 - Narrative articulating specifically how the proposed PL will be *relevant, differentiated, purposeful, and sustained* for CTE teachers. Be sure to include specific outcomes for the teachers participating in the PD.
 - Important to note: All professional learning must be in support of the CTE Board of Trustees (CTEBOT) standards that allow the program to operate.

4. Talent Management Narrative

- Brief explanation of how the CTE Teacher Grant aligns with LEA’s vision for a robust educator talent management system that *supports, grows, and retains* all educators, especially its CTE teachers.
- Brief explanation of LEA’s strategy for retaining CTE teachers who are receiving the full cost of a CTE teacher certification tuition.