

CTE MAKEOVER CHALLENGE

Questions & Answers from CTE Makeover Challenge Information Session Thursday, March 17, 4:00 - 5:00PM EDT

Eligibility

Q: Is my school eligible to enter the Challenge?

A: Please review the Eligibility Section of the Federal Register notice. An eligible entrant must be either:

- (1) A school that is eligible to receive funds directly under section 3(14)(A) of Perkins IV [2] (e.g. a charter school or area CTE school); or
- (2) A school that is eligible to receive funds from an eligible recipient under section 3(14)(A) of Perkins IV (e.g. a local high-school that receives funds from a Local Education Agency that is eligible under section 3(14)(A) of Perkins IV).

Section 3(14)(A) of the Perkins Act states that an “eligible recipient” is:

“(A) a local educational agency (including a public charter school that operates as a local educational agency), an area career and technical education school, an educational service agency, or a consortium, eligible to receive assistance under section 131...”

Please see Section 131 of the Perkins Act for which describes DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Q: Are postsecondary schools eligible to enter the Challenge?

A: No. You must be eligible to receive Perkins funding, and not be a postsecondary school to enter the challenge.

Q: My state has additional requirements in order for my school to receive Perkins funding. Am I eligible to enter?

A: If your school is eligible for funding under Perkins, regardless of the additional requirements a State may place on eligibility, then the school is eligible to apply.

Q: We are a publicly funded High School but we are unsure if we are eligible to receive Perkins funding. Are we eligible to enter the Challenge?

A: You may submit an entry to the challenge. All schools submitting a first round entry will be screened for eligibility. If you are unsure, you are encouraged to submit a first round entry.

Q: Are we eligible even if we do not currently receive Perkins IV funding?

A: As long as the school is *eligible* to receive Perkins IV funding, even if it does not currently receive the funds, the school is eligible to submit to the CTE Makeover Challenge.

Q: We are deeply involved in maker implementation and connecting it to new CTE, tech and science standards, and would love to do this, but still aren't sure if we meet Perkins eligibility. We've researched this extensively. Is there someone we can talk to?

A: We recommend that you contact your district or state CTE director. All schools submitting a first round entry will be screened for eligibility. If you are unsure, you are encouraged to submit a first round entry.

Q: Our School is currently K-9 public charter school. The school will be K-10 next year and will be K-12 in three year by adding a grade each year. Is our school eligible for the challenge?

A: The school must be eligible for Perkins IV funding at the time of prize disbursement, which is scheduled for June 2016. As long as the school is eligible to receive Perkins IV funding, even if it does not currently receive the funds, the school is eligible to enter the CTE Makeover Challenge.

Q: We are starting a new school in the fall. Would it be eligible for this funding?

A: The school would need to be eligible for Perkins IV funding at the time of prize disbursement, which is scheduled for June 2016. Because your school is new and not be eligible for Perkins IV funding at the time of prize disbursement, it will not be eligible to enter the Challenge. However, you are still welcome to take advantage of the Bootcamp resources made available on the Challenge website.

Q: If my school currently has a functioning MakerSpace for the high school level. Can my team present a program that is geared to a middle/elementary school level?

A: Schools must be eligible for Perkins IV funding to be eligible to win prizes. Please carefully review the criteria that will be used to evaluate your entry.

Q: We opened a makerspace this year. Can we still submit for expansion of our programs and tools?

A: Yes, teams may submit for expansion of current programs and tools as long as the school is eligible to receive Perkins IV funding.

Q: Can elementary or middle schools apply?

A: A middle school may enter if it is eligible to receive Perkins IV funding. Elementary schools are not eligible to enter the challenge. The Challenge focus is on high schools, but if your middle school is eligible to receive funding, you are eligible to participate in the Challenge. Contact your district superintendent or state CTE director if you have remaining questions. If you are unsure, you are encouraged to submit a first round entry.

Q: Our city has a Vocational School and a public high school in our district, and while the city is eligible for Perkins grant money all the money currently only goes to our vocational school. We have a up and coming technology department at our high school and was wondering if a CITY is eligible for Perkins grant funding, does that mean that all schools within its district are eligible?

A: If the school is eligible to receive Perkins IV funding, the school would be eligible to participate in the Challenge even if it does not currently receive the funds. All schools submitting a first round entry will be screened for eligibility. If you are unsure, you are encouraged to submit a first round entry.

Q: We are a not-for-profit organization working with multiple school districts. We have been discussing having a maker space in our not-for-profit's science center. All of the schools would bus their students. Is it possible for the science center to enter the challenge and have the makerspace in our facility?

A: Unfortunately, only schools that are eligible to receive Perkins IV funding are eligible to enter the Challenge. A not-for-profit may participate as a team member for a school's submission.

Makerspace

Q: I am new to makerspaces. Are there good examples of maker's labs that exist for us to look at to gain ideas?

A: Examples of makerspaces are available on the Challenge [website](#). You can connect with other schools, libraries, museums, and community organizations, who may be able to help with your makerspace ideas.

Q: For an agriculture program, would an example of a makerspace be something like creating a "working farm"?

A: The U.S. Department of Education is open to all types of makerspaces. If you are unsure, you are encouraged to submit a first round entry.

Q: Can the makerspace be a combination of two spaces?

A: The U.S. Department of Education is open to all types of makerspaces. If you are unsure, you are encouraged to submit a first round entry.

Q: If there a preference for new spaces or for innovative expansions of spaces that have already been begun?

A: The U.S. Department of Education is open to all types of makerspaces and there is no preference for new spaces or expansion of spaces. You are encouraged to review the criteria that will be used to evaluate your submission.

Q: Is the funding only for CTE-type spaces or can more types of equipment/projects be part of a plan/design?

A: The U.S. Department of Education is open to all types of makerspaces. The primary purpose of the Challenge is to serve CTE students, but the hope is that other students may have access to it.

Q: Does the makerspace have to be used for an approved CTE program, or can we still be applying for CTE approval?

A: The proposed makerspace should be used to serve CTE students. As long as the school is eligible to receive Perkins IV funding, the school is eligible to submit to the CTE Makeover Challenge. If you are unsure, you are encouraged to submit a first round entry.

Team

Q: Can more than one team apply from a school?

A: Only one entry can be submitted from a school. However, that entry may show a multi-faceted approach and have various team members contribute to the submission.

Q: Is there an opportunity for a person representing a school district to make an initial submission in order to be allowed to participate in the Bootcamp?

A: The high school should be the lead applicant. Districts can encourage someone from their high school to enter. District staff can participate on the team, but the lead applicant should be from the high school.

Q: Can more than one school apply per school district?

A: More than one school from a district can enter. However, only one entry can be submitted from a single school.

Q: Can two high schools in the same district apply jointly?

A: Two high schools in the same district may apply jointly as one team in the submission. The team lead will be responsible for disbursing the prizes if the team is selected as an award recipient.

Q: Two different high schools are considering joining together and submitting one application, is that possible or do they need to submit individual applications?

A: Two high schools in the same district may apply jointly as one team in one application. The team lead will be responsible for disbursing the prizes if the team is selected as an award recipient. Two high schools from separate districts would need to submit separate applications.

Q: Do you want us to apply using our school district demographic info or our high school demographics info?

A: Please apply using the demographic information for the school that is affiliated with the team lead.

Q: Is there a size limit on the team?

A: Each team may have as many team members as it likes. The submission form requires one team lead, and the U.S. Department of Education recommends including no more than five additional team members on the submission form, though the actual team may have more members.

Q: Can schools and communities partner in the submission?

A: Yes, schools and communities may partner in the submission. The team lead must be from the school that is eligible to receive Perkins IV funding.

Q: Does the makerspace have to be housed in a school facility, or can we develop it in partnership with local nonprofits?

A: The makerspace must serve CTE students from the school that is eligible to receive Perkins funding. Non-profits may be members of your team.

Q: If a district is looking at a mobile makerspace that will be shared by multiple schools should one school be identified as the lead for submission purposes?

A: Yes, one school should be identified with the Team Lead for the submission. Representatives from other schools may be added to your team.

First Round Submission and Second Round (Blueprint Submission)

Q: How much detail is needed in our plan for the first round?

A: The U.S. Department of Education wants to hear your vision and your idea in the first round submission, and is looking to get as many schools as possible into the Bootcamp. The second round will focus more heavily on the details for evaluation purposes.

Q: In the 1st round questionnaire, it asks how many secondary CTE students are enrolled in the school - if a student is in 2 CTE classes, is he/she counted once or twice?

A: Please provide a general overview of your school and how many students are served in your CTE program, and do not get too caught up in the details of counting or double counting.

Q: Does the budget for first round submission include teacher/admin salaries for total school site, utilities, buses, etc., or just day to day school site accounts?

A: Please provide the budget for your school, including any amounts covered by the district.

Q: Does the budget question on the first round submission form refer to my school (the high school) or district - my program within CTE or our Perkins budget?

A: Please provide the budget for your school, including any amounts covered by the district.

Q: We are asked for, "Total School Budget for the 2015-2016 Academic School year". Is this referring to just the school or the district, and to what particular funding accounts are being referred. Can you provide clarification?

A: Please provide the budget for your school, including any amounts covered by the district.

Q: Are you asking for the budget amount allocated to our school from our LEA, that is at our discretion to spend, or are you asking for the budget including salaries and the cafeteria budget which are paid by the district on our behalf, but are not at the discretion of the school?

A: Please provide the budget for your school, including any amounts covered by the district.

Q: Does submitting the first round submission automatically have us qualify for the Bootcamp? It is the Blueprint Submission that will determine the 'winners', correct?

A: To qualify for the Bootcamp, teams must complete a first round submission and meet the eligibility criteria in the Federal Register. The second round Blueprint submission will be evaluated against the Challenge criteria to determine up to ten award recipients.

Q: Does it matter if there are major design changes from Round 1 to Round 2

A: The Blueprint submission will be evaluated against the Challenge criteria to determine up to ten award recipients. Teams may have design changes between the first round submission and second round Blueprint submission.

Q: Is there a list available of the services/resources that sponsors provide in-kind? Am I understanding correctly that our proposal will need to include these services/resources?

A: Judges will not be evaluating whether teams include the tools or resources being made available by sponsors. For example, for Snap-on Incorporated, who is offering tools to the ten award recipients, teams do not need to include those tools into their makerspaces. Sponsors are donating additional prizes that are being offered in addition to the cash prize pool.

Q: Is our school district required to input a certain amount of funding into the project?

A: No, the school district is not required to input a certain amount of funding into the project. However, for the purposes of the Challenge, making is all about working with the resources you have available and identifying the resources you may want.

Q: Are there any requirements regarding how the plans are presented? (e.g., CAD design, hand drawn blue prints)

A: Additional details around the Blueprint submission will be provided once Bootcamp launches.

Q: We've extensively looked at current makerspaces and "FABlabs." Would significantly different models be viewed in a more positive light? Is integration with existing STEM programs at the school more important than community involvement or vice versa?

A: All submissions will be viewed according to the Challenge criteria and rules, terms, and conditions of the Challenge.

Q: So for sustainability purposes at first one could get a 3D printer and engage the group to develop, vases, pots etc. sell them and by that make money to continue increasing equipment?

A: The U.S. Department of Education is looking for creative ideas for sustainability. In the second round Blueprint submission, include ideas for how the team plans to sustain the makerspace.

Q: The "Optional" items - will a submission be at a disadvantage if they are not submitted?

A: Teams will not be at a disadvantage if they do not submit a photo or blueprint at the first round submission. The first round submission is intended to encourage teams to advance to the Bootcamp phase. If teams do not submit anything for the optional questions, they can still participate. The second round Blueprint submission will require additional detail.

Bootcamp

Q: How many schools will participate in the Bootcamp?

A: There is no limit to the number of schools that may participate in the Bootcamp.

Q: Is there a cost for the bootcamp? travel lodging expenses?

A: There is no cost to attend the Bootcamp. All resources will be made available online on the CTE Makeover Challenge website and via email to Team Leads once the Bootcamp phase launches.

Q: Where is the Bootcamp being held?

A: The Bootcamp will take place April 11 - May 22, 2016 and will be virtual. Materials will be distributed on the CTE Makeover Challenge website and via email to Team Leads.

Q: Approximately how many hours of commitment is the Bootcamp?

A: The Bootcamp commitment will vary depending on the team's needs. The U.S. Department of Education anticipates approximately 3 hours of webinar/video content, as well as additional time for the recommended readings, assignments, and optional office hours. Teams will also need to set aside time to complete the second round Blueprint submission form.

Q: So are the Bootcamp lessons intended primarily for the team lead or would this be something the students may also participate?

A: The U.S. Department of Education hopes all team members--students, teachers, and administrators--participate in the Bootcamp.

Q: I'm interested in learning about makerspaces and am not eligible for the awards. Can I participate in the boot camp for learning purposes?

A: All resources will be made available online on the CTE Makeover Challenge website. There will be some resources, such as office hours, that are exclusive to eligible schools.

Judging and Prizes

Q: Will Title I schools and underfunded schools receive priority based on higher need?

A: There is an additional criterion for addressing need but no specific set aside awards for Title 1 or underserved schools. Please describe how the makerspace best meets the need of the school's students in your submission.

Q: Is total award based on criteria only, or do you consider the economic ability of school to create a makerspace?

A: There is an additional criterion for addressing need. Please describe how the makerspace best meets the need of the school's students in your submission.

Q: The \$200,000 and \$350,000 in-kind is to be distributed between the 10 schools correct?

A: The cash prize purse and in-kind prizes donated by sponsors will be distributed across the ten schools.

Q: Is the \$200K a national or regional opportunity?

A: The CTE Makeover Challenge is a national opportunity.

Q: Will each of the winning schools be limited to \$20,000 or will the award depend on the cost of the plan?

A: The U.S. Department of Education anticipates up to ten schools to receive \$20,000 each. In the second round Blueprint submission, one of the criteria is sustainability, which addresses how the makerspace will be funded and maintained. If a team's plan costs more than \$20,000, the team should describe how it would fund and sustain the makerspace.

Q: Can this be split over two campuses or only for one campus, one location?

A: Awards will be disbursed to the school aligned to the Team Lead.

Q: If selected the funds will go directly to the school or to the SEA/LEA?

A: Awards will be disbursed to the school aligned to the Team Lead.

Q: We have an Agriculture CTE program. Can the funds be used to build/purchase a building to be used for a woodworking shop for Ag Mechanics?

A: Awards are meant to help fund the build out or materials for the school's makerspace.

Future CTE Makeover Challenges

Q: If our school isn't chosen as a finalist for this academic year, would it be possible to resubmit next year?

A: This is the first year U.S. Department of Education is offering the CTE Makeover Challenge. There currently are no future CTE Makeover Challenges planned. Other ED-sponsored innovation challenges are listed at www.edprizes.com.

Q: Is this the first year for this challenge?

A: This is the first year U.S. Department of Education is offering the CTE Makeover Challenge. There currently are no future CTE Makeover Challenges planned. Other ED-sponsored innovation challenges are listed at www.edprizes.com.

Additional Questions

Q: Will winner submissions be made public or all submissions?

A: The U.S. Department of Education reserves the right to make all submissions publicly available.