

Career Exploration and Awareness Funds

[*Each Child, Our Future*](#), Ohio's strategic plan for education, emphasizes that in school, each child should see the relevance of his or her learning, be exposed to practical, real-world work settings and begin to define his or her future. Strategy 10 outlines the need to ensure that school inspires students to identify paths to future success through a focus on careers.

To support the implementation of a more consistent and collaborative career-focused approach to education in Ohio, [House Bill 110](#) has established funding to be used towards career awareness and exploration in each city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district, community school, and STEM school.

Funding

Career Awareness and Exploration funds will be calculated by the Department at each city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district, community school and STEM schools (henceforth referred to as schools) starting in the 2021-2022 school year and should be used to enhance career awareness and exploration for Ohio students. Schools will generate funds for these purposes based on their enrollment in the amount of \$2.50 per student in the 2021-2022 school year and \$5.00 in the 2022-2023 school year.

Payment of Funds

While the Department will calculate funds at each educating school through the state foundation payment process, the funds will be paid to the Career-Technical Planning District (CTPD) by the Department.

Proper Uses of These Funds Include:

1. Delivery of career awareness programs to students K-12;
2. provision of a common, consistent curriculum to students K-12;
3. assisting teachers in providing career development to students;
4. developing a career development plan for each student that stays with that student throughout their entire education; and/or
5. providing opportunities for students to engage in career focused activities across all pathways at each grade level.

Proactive Planning for Funds – Developing a System of Career Development in your Career-Technical Education Planning District

It is important for the Career-Technical Planning District leads and the associate school leaders at every level (elementary, middle and high school principals, curriculum directors, counselors, etc.) to coordinate these impact dollars.

Each Career-Technical Planning District should consider using the dollars to build their planning district's career development system across the K-12 system with all their associate schools.

Schools could also consider developing a cohesive plan within their Career-Technical Planning District that allows for employment of a coordinator to increase real-world learning for all students.

Examples at Every Level

Promising Practices by Grade Band

District Examples:

- Hire lead Career Advisors and/or identify building level leads across the district(s).
- Hire a Real-World Learning/Partnership Coordinator: Staff member who is focused on connecting real world learning in curriculum K-12 and also helps lead with building strong community partnerships and opportunities for students.

Elementary School:

- Develop hands-on activities that directly align to grade-level learning standards. This will show real-world application to learning skills in the classroom and career pathway opportunities. For example: culinary activities, construction, coding robotics.

Middle School:

- Career Days and Career Speakers: Schools could use funds to have speakers come to the school or have businesses come out and present during a career day.
- Fund career fairs, field trips, speakers, professional development, etc.
- Provide awareness of careers aligned with the Career-Technical Planning District's career field and pathway offerings to middle school students.
- Virtual Job Shadowing opportunities.

High School:

- Career Exploration Software Training: Schools could use funds to train teachers and other staff on using various career exploration software platforms. For example, OhioMeansJobs.com is Ohio's free career exploration system. Schools may also use other software systems for career exploration as well.
- Industry-Recognized Credentials: Schools could use funds to support students in earning these.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Can the Career-Technical Planning District use any of these funds?
 - a. *Yes. A Career-Technical Planning District, which may be a traditional public school district, or a joint vocational school district may develop a plan for how to use these funds. A Career-Technical Planning District may leverage these resources to provide career awareness and exploration activities that support all schools and districts.*
2. Is there a deadline for when funds need to be spent by?
 - a. *No. While the Department encourages schools and Career-Technical Planning Districts to spend funds the year in which they are received, there is not a deadline by which these funds must be spent.*
3. Are schools required to report annual data related to these funds to the Department of Education?
 - a. *No, although the Department is actively seeking promising innovations to share the impact of these dollars in the education community. It is recommended for local Career-Technical Planning District's and schools using these funds to collect their own impact data. The Department may ask for voluntary participation in sharing those data.*
4. What resources are available for schools and Career-Technical Planning District's in developing strategies aligned to the uses of these funds?
 - a. *The Department is working closely with partners to develop supporting information on these initiatives. [Subscribe to the Department's EdConnection](#) to receive updates as support information is released. Visit our [Events and Training Resources](#) page for other related professional learning opportunities. For specific questions related to career awareness and exploration funds, contact the Department at cte@education.ohio.gov.*
5. How should the Career-Technical Planning District communicate with associate school leaders on how best to use these funds?
 - a. *Career-Technical Planning District leaders should consider inviting their associate schools to collaborate on a plan for proactively using these funds. The Department will be offering opportunities both in person and virtually to collaborate or Career-Technical Planning District leaders are encouraged to reach out to elementary, middle, and high school building leaders to invite them to proactively plan.*
6. Where will plans be submitted? Will we need submit anything in the Safe Account or Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP)?

- a. *Career-Technical Planning Districts have existing five-year plans on file with the Department. There will be no uploads of plans in any state supported system.*
7. Is there a template plan for schools to use?
 - a. *The Department will be publishing a worksheet and discussion guide for local use. These resources are merely a suggestion and will not be required for use.*
8. What are some examples of how Career-Technical Planning Districts can use these funds to benefit the entire planning district?
 - a. *Building a system – help districts build their career development system (individual schools name who the “career development/readiness” lead in each building are – elementary, middle and high schools). Please consult the examples above as well.*
9. What are some examples of unallowable uses of funds?
 - a. *Funds should be spent on the above allowable uses only.*