

Career and Technical Education *Competitive Equipment Grants (122):* 2024-2025

October 2024



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600
www.education.pa.gov



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Competitive Equipment Grants

A. Introduction

1. Background

The Equipment Grant supports school districts with eight or more Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)-approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs, and Pennsylvania Career and Technical Centers (CTCs) in updating or purchasing new equipment used by students for the purpose of training students.

This is a competitive application process.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the grant is to purchase equipment aligned with the needs of employers for:

- a. Use in PDE-approved CTE programs; and
- b. Training students (i.e., student hands-on use of the equipment as part of the secondary CTE curriculum) in CTE programs.

3. Scope

Applicants may seek a grant up to \$85,000.00. Grant awards are contingent upon availability of funds.

A completed application is accomplished by following the menu on the [eGrants](#) system. All sections will need to be completed before school districts and CTCs will be able to “submit” the grant application to PDE. Once the grant application is submitted and peer reviewed, and the grant is awarded, the application will be returned to the school district or CTC for a timeline revision. Authorized officers at the school district or CTC will affix electronic signatures and submit e-signed grant agreements to PDE through the eGrants system.

In addition, a performance report for previous year grants must be submitted online via the eGrants system prior to PDE granting “Final Approval” to disburse funds to the school district or CTC.

4. Definitions

CIP Codes – Classification of Instructional Programs – A numerical coding of instructional programs developed by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) used to identify career and technical programs.

IDOL – In-Demand Occupations List.

Industry standards – Standards established by state or national trade or professional organizations, or state or federal regulatory bodies accepted by PDE that describe what learners should know and be able to do and describe how well learners should know or be able to perform a task in a specific occupation.

Program of Study – State-developed educational plan that articulates the secondary

career and technical programs to postsecondary degree or diploma or certificate programs.

5. Objectives

Prospective applicants must address each of the following objectives:

a. Alignment to Occupations

The proposal must provide evidence that the CTE program leads to employment in occupations aligned to the CTE programs where the equipment will be used.

Proposal must state CIP Code for requested equipment, [SOC code](#) that aligns to the [CIP](#) and is on the [IDOL](#), the occupation meets the state average [Entry Annual Wage](#) of \$29,860 or higher and the employment projections demonstrate substantive growth showing the expected number of total job openings in the state will be 1,000 or greater.

b. Alignment to National or State Industry Standards

The applicant must show how specific CTE programs will be enhanced to include industry standards by updating curriculum, providing professional development on the new equipment and related credentialing exam, and purchasing equipment that students will use to learn the new skills. For additional resources for non-POS Task Grid go to [Programs of Study \(POS\)/SOAR](#) and see the links at the bottom.

c. Alignment to Industry Credentials

The applicant must list the program-specific [industry credentials](#) and provide verification that local businesses, including the Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC), and Workforce Development Board (WDB) recognize the value of the selected industry certificate, credential, or college credit or degree.

d. Alignment of CTE Curriculum to PA Core Standards

The applicant must show that the CTE program curriculum will be revised to incorporate the skills associated with the newly purchased equipment and provide a crosswalk of the CTE content to the Pennsylvania Core Standards. The program area will develop assessment items related to the Pennsylvania Core Standards.

For POS CIPS, PA Core Standards can be found in [POS Task Grid](#).

e. Occupational Advisory Committee

The OAC must support the equipment purchases and curriculum revisions. The OAC minutes must demonstrate OAC discussion of the equipment and why or how the equipment is used in industry. OAC meetings with only school staff in attendance are not considered.

f. Engagement of Business and Workforce

The applicant must show that local employers were engaged in the decision regarding the equipment purchase, curriculum revisions, and grant application; including whether the program will provide work-based learning opportunities to

students. The local WDB must provide a letter of support that includes the program by CIP, the requested equipment, and an indication that the use of equipment will assist graduates in obtaining or advancing in employment.

6. Workforce Preparation

The purpose of this section is to set a standard of measure to determine the alignment of an applicant's program to real-world industry need. Data used to answer these questions must be sourced via the provided links below.

- a. What is the [Classification of Instructional Program\(s\) \(CIPS\)](#) for which the requested equipment will be purchased? CIPS must be approved by PDE in the CATS approval system.
- b. What are the occupations for which this partnership will prepare participants? Applicants should use the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Center for Workforce Information and Analysis [SOC codes](#) for the relevant occupations.
- c. What is the anticipated Entry Annual Wage that an employee can receive by entering a specific occupation listed in question a.?

Applicants should use the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis's [Pennsylvania Occupational Wages Statewide](#) webpage to cite the wages for the relevant occupations.

- d. What is the projected number of new job openings that are expected for the occupations listed in question a. between 2022 and 2032?

Applicants should use the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis's Long Term Occupational Employment Projections for Pennsylvania webpage to cite the "[Projected Number of Job Openings](#)" for the relevant occupation.

7. Eligibility

School districts with eight or more PDE-approved CTE programs, and CTCs are eligible to apply.

8. Eligible Expenditures

Criteria for equipment used by students enrolled in PDE-approved CTE programs:

- a. Supports student hands-on training in approved CTE programs that have high placement for employment;
- b. Meets industry standards based on OAC recommendations;
- c. Costs \$3,000.00 or more per unit;
- d. Is discussed and recommended by the OAC;
- e. Retains its original shape, appearance, and character with use;
- f. Does not lose its identity through fabrication or incorporation into a different or

more complex unit or substance, or when unbundling the unit;

- g. Is nonexpendable, which means that if the item is damaged or some of its parts are lost or worn out, it is more feasible to repair the item than to replace it with an entire new unit; and
- h. Can be expected to serve its principal purpose for more than a 12-month fiscal period, under normal conditions of use, including reasonable care and maintenance.
- i. No vehicle purchased may be used for transporting students and use of the vehicle outside of the classroom setting is prohibited.

All budget figures must be rounded to the nearest dollar.

B. Administrative Provisions

1. Matching Requirement

The Local Match requirement has been waived for 2024-2025.

No match will be required this year.

2. Ineligible Expenditures

- a. Bundled items that are combined to reach the \$3,000.00 minimum per unit;
- b. Computers, computer upgrades;
- c. Software, certification exams;
- d. Refrigerators, freezers, ice makers, coolers;
- e. Kits, packages, sets;
- f. Student tools and tool kits and sets;
- g. Compressors, generators;
- h. Infrastructure, greenhouses, chicken coops, animal pens;
- i. Furniture, shelving systems, cabinets;
- j. Dust collection systems, exhaust systems, or dehumidification systems.

3. End Products

Required end products include:

- a. Curriculum crosswalk that includes industry standards and Pennsylvania Core Standards; and
- b. Lesson plan using the new equipment that also demonstrates academic integration.

4. Definition of Industry Standards

Standards established by state or national trade or professional organizations, or state or federal regulatory bodies accepted by PDE that describe what learners should know and describe how well learners should be able to perform a task in a specific occupation.

5. Additional Requirements

- a. The OAC must support the equipment purchases and curriculum revisions. The OAC minutes must demonstrate OAC discussion of the equipment and why or how the equipment is used in industry and supports secondary CTE graduates who seek employment.
- b. The local WDB must provide a letter of support that includes the program by CIP, requested equipment, and employment graduates can obtain.
- c. Applicants who receive CTE Equipment Grant funding are required to submit an Interim Report (final performance report) on or before July 15, 2025 and provide relevant data in the Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS).

6. Rating Format for Equipment Funding

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's reviewers will use a similar rating format in eGrants to evaluate applications. Funding will depend upon a composite recommendation of the reviewers as well as availability of funds.

The Budget section will not be scored, though peer reviewers will review it to ensure that the Budget and Narrative sections align.

Applicant: _____

Reviewer: _____

| Description | Points | Score |
|--|--------|-------|
| Evidence that the SOC is on the IDOL and aligned to CIP. Evidence that the state Entry Annual Wage is \$29,860 or higher. Evidence that the expected number of total job openings in the state will be 1,000 or greater. | 20 | |
| Specific industry standards and organization or regulatory board are listed for the PDE-approved CTE program. Evidence that Professional Development relating to the proposed equipment is included. | 15 | |
| Industry credentials are listed and are aligned to the PDE approved CTE program. | 15 | |
| CTE tasks are listed as well as the PA Core Standards aligned to the PDE approved program. | 20 | |

| | | |
|--|----|--|
| OAC meeting date is listed and minutes noting committee discussion and recommendation to purchase equipment is uploaded in eGrants. If the OAC is comprised solely of teachers, the grant cannot be funded. | 15 | |
| A letter from the local Workforce Development Board supporting the specific equipment purchase is provided, which includes the program by CIP, requested equipment by CIP, and employment opportunities for graduates. | 15 | |
| Total Score | | |

7. Equipment Grant Scoring Rubric

The Pennsylvania Department of Education’s reviewers will use the following rubric to determine points awarded for equipment grants.

| Category | Information Is Complete | Partial Information Is Provided | Section Is Blank |
|---|--|--|--|
| Occupations are Connected to the PDE Approved CTE Program | Each occupation listed is associated with the PDE approved CTE program based on the CIP/SOC crosswalk and exists on the IDOL. Each occupation listed is associated with an Entry Annual Wage of \$25,000 or higher. Each occupation listed is associated with Total Job Openings of 1,000 or greater. (20) | Some of the occupations listed are associated with the PDE approved CTE program based on the CIP/SOC crosswalk and exist on the IDOL. Some of the occupations listed are associated with an Entry Annual Wage of \$29,860 or higher. Some of the occupations listed are associated with Total Job Openings of 1,000 or greater. (10) | The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0) |
| Industry Standards and Organization or Regulatory Board | The equipment requested directly relates to industry standards and organization or regulatory boards that have been listed. Professional Development is included for both the new equipment and the related credentialing exam(s) (15) | Industry standards have been listed but not the organization or regulatory board. The organization or regulatory board has been listed but not the industry standards. Professional Development is included but not for both the new equipment and the related credentialing exam(s) (10) | The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0) |
| Industry credentials Aligned to the PDE CTE Approved Program | The industry credentials are listed and are aligned to the PDE CTE approved program for which the equipment will be used. (15) | The industry credentials are not listed or those listed do not align to the PDE approved CTE program. (10) | The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0) |
| CTE Tasks and PA Core Standards Aligned to the PDE CTE Approved Program | The CTE tasks and PA Core Standards are listed and are aligned to the PDE CTE approved program for which the equipment will be used. (20) | The CTE tasks are listed but the PA Core Standards are not listed. The PA Core Standards are listed but the CTE tasks are not listed. The CTE tasks and the PA Core Standards do not align to the PDE approved CTE program. (10) | The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0) |
| Occupational Advisory Committee | The date and copy of the Occupational Advisory Committee meeting date and minutes where the equipment is discussed and recommended is made is provided. (15) | The date of the Occupational Advisory Committee is provided but the minutes are not provided. Or the minutes are provided but only teachers are in attendance. Or the minutes are provided and the OAC has not discussed the equipment purchase. (10) | The applicant has not provided any information for this section. (0) |

| Category | Information Is Complete | Partial Information Is Provided | Section Is Blank |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Local Workforce Development Board | A letter from the Local Workforce Development Board has been uploaded into the eGrants application and includes the CIP, specific equipment and related SOC's. (15) | A letter from the Local Workforce Development Board has been promised but has not been uploaded into the eGrants application. Or the letter is provided but does not include the specific equipment. Or the letter is provided but does not include the CIP. (10) | The applicant has not provided a letter from the Local Workforce Development Board. (0) |

C. General Information

1. Application Deadline

Eligible grant recipients must submit a proposal to PDE by 5 pm on November 8, 2024.

How to Apply

Individuals wishing to apply for CTE Equipment Grant funding are required to apply for funding through the online, internet-based [eGrants system](#).

2. Risk Assessment

The state must evaluate the risk level of an applicant during the pre-award process and may assign specific conditions. Risk factors to consider include previous non-compliance, were any major issues corrected, are there new personnel, substantial changes in the system, new grant recipient, and results of any federal monitoring with specific conditions required.

The following questions will assist with the evaluation of the applicant’s risk level for any future pre-award process.

- a. Is the Director/Superintendent new for the current fiscal year? If so, provide contact information for Director/Superintendent. Indicate number of months or years as the Director/Superintendent.
- b. Is the Business Manager new for the current fiscal year? If so, provide contact information for Business Manager. Indicate number of months or years as the Business Manager.
- c. Is the Project Administrator new? If so, provide contact information for Project Administrator. Indicate number of months or years as the Project Administrator.
- d. Were there any corrective actions in the last two years? If so, provide documentation that all corrections identified in previous On-Site Compliance Reports have been completely satisfied and fully implemented. If corrections haven’t been completed, provide a detailed explanation. If you have not received an on-site visit within the last five years, enter Not Applicable (N/A).

- e. Were there any Single Audit findings in the last two years? If so, have the findings and corrective actions corrected? If not, please explain. Note: Please include the finding and the year.

3. Reason for Disqualification

Applicants that are not eligible agencies or are not proposing to develop or operate eligible programs or services to serve eligible students will be disqualified.

Reasons for failure of application to be funded:

- a. Failure to have submitted a required final performance report (Interim Report) from previous CTE grant award;
- b. Insufficient score (less than 80 points) on the quality review;
- c. Limitations of funding; or
- d. Contractor is identified as not being responsible due to delinquent tax debt, bankruptcy, criminal activity, or other conditions specified in the State Contractor Responsibility Program (see Management Directive 215.9, 04/16/1999).

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Career and Technical Education manages this state-funded program. Correspondence concerning this funding program should be addressed to:

Lynn Aul
Career and Technical Education Advisor
Bureau of Career and Technical Education
Pennsylvania Department of Education
607 South Drive, 5th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600
Phone: 717.772.2499
Email: lyaul@pa.gov

D. Budget Provisions

1. Contracts and Grant Agreements

The term "agreement" used below means any of the previous contract formats.

- a. Agreements for funding between the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the eligible recipient are in the form of a binding agreement. This grant agreement will be in the form of a standard contract or a grant agreement, depending on the type of eligible recipient. The appropriate agreement will be made available for e-signing when an application is approved and PDE reviewer assigns the effective start date.
- b. Authorized signatures – If the eligible recipient is an area career and technical education school or career and technical center, the authorized signature shall be the director or superintendent of record. If the eligible recipient is a school district, the authorized signature shall be the superintendent.

- c. Changes to the agreement language are not recommended. Any change will require the review and approval by PDE's Office of Chief Counsel and will cause delays in approving the agreement.
- d. The duration of the project will appear on the agreement when it is printed. The start date is determined by the date that the application was received by PDE in substantially approvable form.
- e. After a complete review and approval by PDE and the Pennsylvania Comptroller's Office, an approved and fully executed agreement will be returned to the eligible recipient.

2. Classification of Expenditures

Equipment requested must be used to implement the activities described in the project. Each application must contain an itemized budget of all planned expenditures with dollar amounts. Reimbursable costs are limited to the eligible expenditures identified in each function or object.

The itemized budget must be separated into various functions and objects in accordance with the [Pennsylvania School Accounting Manual](#). Not all functions or objects are allowable budget categories for career and technical education projects. See individual guidelines for allowable functions or objects. The following is a listing and explanation of the functions and objects:

a. Functions

Instruction (1000) – Includes all activities dealing directly with the interaction between teachers or support personnel, and students including paraprofessionals, aides or tutors who assist students.

b. Objects

Equipment – Object 700

Equipment must be necessary to meet project objectives. Eligible recipients must also identify the program and site for which equipment is being purchased.

Purchases of new or replacement instructional equipment are to be listed by cost, number and types of equipment.

3. Utilization and Control of Funds

- a. Period of obligation of funds by eligible recipients – PDE determines the beginning date and period of obligation of each project, relating to the Career and Technical Education Equipment Grant, when the completed application is received in substantially approvable form (a status in Pennsylvania's eGrants system). PDE acknowledges the completeness of each application through notification on the eGrants system. The period during which funds may be obligated is also included in the agreement. The agreement, printed from an approved eGrants project, will have the beginning and ending dates of the project printed on the document.

If the obligation is for Acquisition of real or personal property, the obligation is

made on the date which the eligible recipient makes a binding written commitment to obtain the property.

4. Funding of Projects

Any competitive funds provided for the Career and Technical Education Equipment Grant shall be paid to the grant recipient in one lump sum, upon final execution of the grant agreement.

5. Final Expenditure Reports

- a. All grant recipients are required to submit their final expenditure reports electronically using PDE's eGrants website. Paper copies will not be accepted and will not be returned. If an electronic copy of the report with an electronic signature on page one is not submitted in eGrants, the report will be considered delinquent. Instructions for completing the [Final Expenditure Reports \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pade.state.pa.us/eGrants/Help/FAQs/FinalExpenditureReports.aspx)
- b. The Final Expenditure Report is due no later than May 15, 2025
- c. All obligations must be encumbered by April 30, 2025.
- e. PDE's Bureau of Career and Technical Education will conduct a review of the Final Expenditure Report for completeness, accuracy, and budget compliance. Approved reports are forwarded to the Comptroller's Office for closure. Reports found to be incomplete or incorrect are returned to the recipient for further explanation or correction.
- f. Costs found to be unallowable will be deducted from the total expenditures claimed, and will either be subtracted from the final payment, or requested as a refund. Upon receipt of notification of a disallowance, a recipient may write to Mukta Sharma via USPS at the address provided on page 15 and request reconsideration by explaining the reason for the request. Any documentation that will substantiate the recipient's request should accompany the letter. A notification will be sent to the recipient regarding the Bureau's decision. If the recipient is dissatisfied with the response, a request for further reconsideration may be mailed to Judd Pittman, Director, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, via USPS at the address provided on page 15.
- g. If circumstances prevent timely submission of the report due to a large volume of information being collected, approval for an extension of time must be requested in writing to Elizabeth Brennan at the address provided on page 15 or by emailing elbrennan@pa.gov. An extension will not be approved because of outstanding obligations.

PDE reserves the right to stop any, and all, payments of state and federal funds from any source due to a recipient for failure to submit the Final Expenditure Report by May 15, 2025. If a recipient fails to submit a Final Expenditure Report, even after notification of delinquency, PDE may require the recipient to return all funds advanced under the project.

- h. Any omission in, or corrections to, the initial submission may be made by submitting a revised Final Expenditure Report. A revised Final Expenditure Report must be submitted no later than four months after the original due date.

- i. A check for any unused funds must be sent to the Department of Education, along with an electronically signed copy of page one. The check should be made payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and be mailed to Mukta Sharma at the address below.
- j. Questions concerning the completion of the Final Expenditure Report should be directed to Mukta Sharma, PA Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, at msharma@pa.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Bureau of Career and Technical Education
607 South Drive, 5th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600

6. Record Keeping

- a. Each eligible recipient must retain records of grant activities for at least six years after completion of the activity for which grant funds were used. Equipment records shall be maintained for six years after the disposition, transfer, or replacement of the equipment. In the event of an audit, the six-year record retention may be extended until the final resolution of the audit or until the end of the regular six-year period, whichever is longer. The state records retention regulations are mandated for at least six years and can be found in the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949 (24 PS § 5- 518).
- b. Each eligible recipient is required to maintain adequate records to provide full disclosure of grant expenditures. Such records include purchase orders, invoices, payroll records, time and service function records in support of payroll, bid solicitations, contracts and checks issued.

7. Equipment – Inventory, Usage and Disposition

State and local governments, secondary and postsecondary institutions, and nonprofit organizations shall adhere to PDE's General Administrative Regulations including:

- a. Title to equipment vests upon acquisition to the grantee or sub grantee respectively;
- b. Equipment will be used by the school district or CTC in the program for which it was purchased for as long as it is needed. When no longer needed for the original program, the equipment may be used in other activities currently or previously supported by state funds;
- c. The school district or CTC shall also make equipment available for use in other programs currently or previously supported with state funds as long as such usage does not interfere with the purpose for which it was purchased. Preference should be given to programs funded by the awarding agency;
- d. Equipment acquired with grant funds may not be used to provide services for a fee to compete unfairly with private companies that provide equivalent services;
- e. When acquiring replacement equipment, the recipient may use the equipment

as trade-in toward the cost of replacement equipment;

- f. The recipient must maintain inventory reports that include a description of the piece of equipment, manufacturer's serial number, project number, acquisition date, percentage of federal participation in cost, location and condition, unit acquisition cost and ultimate disposition information. A physical inventory must be taken every two years;
- g. A control system must be in place to safeguard the equipment; and
- h. Disposition: When equipment is no longer needed for the original project or program, or for activities previously or currently supported with state funds, the equipment disposition is made as follows: (a) items with a current per-unit fair market value of less than \$5,000 may be retained, sold or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to PDE; and (b) items with a current per-unit fair market value in excess of \$5,000 may be retained or sold, and the awarding agency shall have the right to an amount calculated by multiplying the current market value or proceeds of the sale by percentage of the awarding agency's share in the original purchase.
- i. Vehicles acquired with grant funds may not be used for transporting students or for running errands, use of the vehicle outside of the classroom setting is prohibited.

Note: See Equipment Inventory Sample Form, next page.

E. Equipment Inventory Sample Form

School Name _____ Contact Person _____

| Description | I.D. Number | Funding Source | Owner | Date Acquired | Cost | Percentage Federal | Location/ Room # | Condition | Disposal |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Robotic Arm | 12345678 | Perkins 380-04-4019 | Career Center | 08/19/18 | \$12,750 | 100 | Transportation | New | |
| Laser Printer | 56789 | General Budget | Career Center | 01/02/17 | \$5,000 | 100 | Drafting | Poor | Parts salvaged/ remainder trashed |

Final Performance Report Instructions:

An annual Final Performance Report is required to demonstrate that a self-evaluation has taken place to track progress toward achieving goals. Progress is tracked through documentation of Assurances, Expenditures and Narrative Report.

The 2023-2024 Final Performance Report (Interim Report) must be submitted online via the eGrants system prior to final approval of a new contract for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Paper copies will not be accepted and will not be returned. If an electronic copy of the report is not submitted, the report will be considered delinquent.

The 2024-2025 Final Performance Report (Interim Report) must be submitted on/or before May 15, 2025 for an agency to be eligible for continued funding.

For information and guidance on the Final Performance report, contact:

Lynn Aul
 Career and Technical Education Advisor
 Bureau of Career and Technical Education
 Pennsylvania Department of Education
 607 South Drive, 5th Floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600
 Phone: 717.772.2499
 Email: lyaul@pa.gov