

Montana Middle School CTE Connections Grant

Vision for Middle School CTE Connections Funding:

The Montana Middle School CTE Connections Grant supports the Governor's 406 Jobs Initiative by increasing student awareness of Montana's high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand career opportunities. Through innovative career exploration, industry engagement, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) experiences, this grant seeks to develop Montana's future workforce pipeline by connecting middle school students to career pathways that lead to employment opportunities within their local communities and across the state.

The grant encourages partnerships among schools, employers, industry organizations, workforce development partners, and postsecondary institutions to ensure students gain meaningful exposure to career opportunities aligned with regional labor market needs. Priority will be given to projects that expand access to career exploration, strengthen transitions into secondary CTE programs, and support the workforce goals outlined in the Governor's 406 Jobs Initiative.

Schools could use the funds to help:

- Explore innovative delivery methods for career exploration and awareness
- Expose students to employability skills sooner through CTSO involvement
- Improve transitions from middle grades into secondary CTE programs of study
- Establish foundational elements for work-based learning

Middle School Awards: Grants of **up to \$5,000** each will be available to school districts to support CTE work in the middle grades (5-8). This grant will be on a first come first serve basis.

Important Dates:

- Application open period: **September 1st, 2026**
- Grant winners notified: **Ongoing until all funds are awarded**
- Submitting a Final Performance Plan Narrative on projects activities, populations served, and outcomes achieved by **August 31, 2027**