

The Wednesday Reader

March 9, 2016

CTE Teachers Can Now Update TEAMS Participation Report Data Directly

As you all are aware, this is the second year in which the data used to complete CTE Student Participation Reports is pulled from the OPI Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule (TEAMS) system.

Currently, all Montana secondary Career and Technical Education teachers are being asked to review their data within TEAMS for accuracy and to work with your school/district authorized representative (AR) to make any needed additions and corrections. **The deadline for all CTE data to be updated is Tuesday, March 15.**

The data to be verified includes

- correct listing of all CTE program high school courses being taught for 2015-2016 school year
- correct mapping/alignment to the correct SCED course codes and course titles
- correct listing of CTE teachers teaching the courses
- total course enrollment with a breakdown of males and females
- the correct term (quarter, semesters, trimester, full year) courses are taught
- minutes of instruction based upon the term length
- indication if a CTE teacher has an extended contract and the number of days for each contract

Just today, the OPI Career & Technical Education division was informed you, the CTE teacher, can review and update your data directly within the CTE tab of TEAMS. This will make it easier for you to ensure the data used for 2016-2017 school year State CTE/VoEd funding is correct.

To get access, a [TEAMS Security Form – Add/Change User Accounts](http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolStaffing/SecurityFormforTEAMS.pdf) (<http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolStaffing/SecurityFormforTEAMS.pdf>) form needs to be completed and submitted. This will allow to have read only access within TEAMS to your district/school Teachers/Class page, but will give you full access to the data on the CTE tab. You will need to work with your school/district Authorized Representative (usually a school administrator or district clerk) to get the form completed and submitted.

Additionally, if you need a copy of the 2015-2016 Montana K-112 Course Codes and Descriptions, a reference manual for Business & Marketing Education can be downloaded directly at www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/CTE/CourseCodesDescriptions.pdf.

Maximize Your CTE Funding – Verify Your CTE Student Participation Report Data by March 15

The 2015-2016 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Student Participation Report Information used for CTE program approval and CTE State funding allocations will be extracted from the TEAMS (*Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule*) information already submitted and on file at the OPI. This change means CTE teachers and/or other district personnel will NOT be submitting participation report information via an online link as they have in the past.

A few items on the CTE tab will require each districts' attention now. The items that need to be verified are: CTE programs offered, CTE teachers with an extended contract, and identifying the number of males and females enrolled in each CTE course (only enrollment totals were reported).

The deadline for changes to be made is March 15, 2016. Since this data was due by December 31, this will be the only reminder to verify your data. Please share this information with your CTE staff.

In order to help your staff verify their class information, use the worksheet [here](#) to help guide teachers in filling out the CTE information needed. The CTE Worksheet is also posted on the OPI website under 'Secondary CTE' on the 'Data Collections' tab.

--CTE Worksheet Link: http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/CTE/TEAMS_CTE_ParticipatioReportWorksheet.pdf

--TEAMS Link: <https://apps3.opi.mt.gov/SSO/Login?Login.aspx>

The CTE information collected in TEAMS is used for Carl Perkins accountability reporting and factors that determine the State CTE (State VoEd) allocation. Therefore, it is imperative that the information submitted is complete and accurate. Any high school district planning to apply for Carl Perkins and/or State CTE (State VoEd) funding for next year (2016-2017) should submit the additional data in TEAMS for all current CTE programs at their high school.

Technical TEAMS questions should be directed to Danielle Murphy, TEAMS Project Manager, by phone at 406.444.1625 or send her an email at: OPITEAMS@mt.gov.

Questions regarding the Perkins Federal Grant Program data requirements or CTE-related questions should be directed at Christy Hendricks, CTE/Perkins Data Specialist, by phone at 406.444.9019 or send her an email at: chendricks@mt.gov.

2016 Google Apps Festival - Missoula Style – Registration Deadline is March 16

Sentinel High School will host [Google Apps Festival, Missoula Style](#) on Saturday, April 30.

[Google Apps Festival, Missoula Style](#) is a day-long event focused on the implementation and integration of Google Tools into an educational setting. This one-day event promises to be a high energy, fun-filled experience with plenty of opportunities for participants to learn, share, and connect with others.

The day's events will be held at Sentinel High School, 901 South Avenue West, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Workshop presenters include Google Certified Teachers, Certified Google Educators, administrators, and local teacher rock stars. Sessions will cover all levels of expertise, so whether you are a Google newbie or tech ninja, there will be workshops to meet your needs. Don't wait, get signed up today.

Registration can be completed online at googlefest.beyondthechalk.net/. The registration rate is \$100 for registrations submitted on or before March 16; after this date, the cost will be \$125.

Registration Now Open for Montana AP Summer Institute – Including AP Computer Science A

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is hosting an official Advanced Placement (AP) Summer Institute in Bozeman, June 27-30.

[Registration](#) is now open and can be completed online at <https://goo.gl/gUFz1e>.

The Advanced Placement courses to be featured in the 2016 Montana AP Summer Institute include AP Biology, AP Computer Science A, AP English Literature and Composition, and AP Statistics.

Complete 2016 Montana AP Summer Institute details, including costs and resources for getting AP courses started at your school, are available at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Gifted/16APSI.pdf>.

Driving into Google Apps Workshop Saturday, April 23 in Billings

On Saturday, April 23, [406Tech](#) will be holding a [Driving into Google Apps](#) workshop in Billings at the downtown Lincoln Center.

This event is being held a pre-conference workshop for the 2016 Montana Traffic Education Conference, but is open to other educators as well. Attend this workshop if you are interested in learning how to use Google Apps.

The workshop will focus on Google apps like Drive, Docs, Tasks, Keep and Sheets. Attendees will learn how to navigate these and other Google apps and put them into action. Attendees can earn six (6) OPI renewal units.

The [Driving into Google Apps](#) workshop is available for \$100 (MTEA members can register at a discount) and registration can be completed at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/driving-into-google-apps-workshop-tickets-21829230817>.

If interested, be sure to register today as space is limited to 40 participants. Registration must be complete by Friday, April 1.

For more information, please visit www.mteaonline.org/annual-conference.html or www.406tech.net/mtea.html.

2016 Montana Institute on Educational Technology Registration Now Open

The [2016 Montana Institute on Educational Technology](#) (MIET) will be held June 14 and 15 at Great Falls College MSU.

Registration is now open and details for 2016 MIET can be found at miettechdays.weebly.com. Early registration is \$110 for both days and includes lunch if completed by May 20.

Following the 2016 MIET, on June 16 a free [Microsoft Innovative Educator \(MIE\) Teacher Academy](#) training will be held, also Great Falls College. This Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) Teacher Academy is designed for the K-12 classroom educator who wants to learn more about Microsoft's best tools and resources for classroom learning in a one-day professional learning experience. Bring your own Windows 8.1 or 10 device to learn how to most effectively use the latest version of Windows, including basic navigation and Windows Apps. Discover Office Mix, Sway, and OneNote, including how digital notebooks can be created and used as a productivity tool for educators and students. This training will also cover how easy it is to use cloud-based tools in Office 365 for education and Skype in the Classroom, including how to take advantage of storage on OneDrive, and how to work collaboratively with others all through the cloud.

For complete details and registration for both the 2016 MIET and the Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) Teacher Academy, please visit miettechdays.weebly.com.

Youth Serve Montana Scholarships: 100 Awards for \$1,000 for Volunteering 100+ Hours

The Youth Serve Montana Scholarship was created to promote volunteerism among high school students, encourage young leaders to further their learning, and provide tuition assistance for Montana students who wish to attend college in-state. Selected students receive a **\$1,000** scholarship toward their college tuition.

Scholarship funds have been made available through support from [Montana Campus Compact](#), a network of Montana campuses committed to community service; [Student Assistance Foundation](#), a nonprofit dedicated to helping students pursue and fund post-secondary education; and the [Governor's Office of Community Service](#), a state agency tasked with expanding and promoting service in Montana. The Governor's Office of Community Service administers the scholarships.

2016 Scholarship Materials:

--[2016 Youth Serve Montana Scholarship Application](#)

--[FAQ](#) (read before applying)

--[Scholarship Poster](#)

**to access a PDF version of the application, please email serve@mt.gov*

2016 Scholarship Guidelines:

--Applicant must have completed 100 hours of volunteer service within a 12-month period. 12-months is defined as the period 12 months prior to the date of application.

--Service that is compensated may not be used for this application's service hours.

--Scholarship funds must be used for the 2016-2017 academic year at a Montana Campus Compact member institution.

--Students must demonstrate financial need by documenting an active FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application.

--Applications are due to the Governor's Office of Community Service by April 15, 2016.

Questions?

Contact the Governor's Office of Community Service at 406-444-9077 or email serve@mt.gov.

2015-2016 CTE Spring Data Collection – Time to Identify CTE Concentrators for Perkins Funding

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Spring Data Collection begins March 1, 2016 and ends April 30, 2016. This AIM collection asks schools to identify all 12th grade high school students who were enrolled at any point during the current 2015-2016 school year who meet the definition of a CTE Concentrator.

CTE Concentrators are 12th graders who have earned three (3) or more credits in any CTE program in any combination during their years of high school. Currently, enrolled CTE courses count towards credits earned. CTE Concentrators must have the 'CTE Concentrator' box checked and an 'Area of Concentration' entered into the AIM/Infinite Campus data system.

If the student has a child or shares the parenting of a child, the 'Single Parent' box should also be marked. High schools who receive funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program must complete this CTE Spring Data Collection.

Instructions for completing the CTE Spring Data Collection can be found on the AIM webpage as well as inside the `Data Collections` tab on the Secondary CTE webpage located at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pub/AIM/Collections/CareerTechnicalEducation/SpringCTECollectionGuide.pdf>

Questions regarding this data collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1-877-424-6681 or send an email to: opiainhelp@mt.gov. Questions regarding CTE programs and/or the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program should be directed to Christy Hendricks at 406-444-9019 or email her at: chendricks@mt.gov.

Student Entrepreneur, Community Engagement Opportunities

Students and entrepreneurs from across Montana are working together to bridge a growing rural-urban disconnect and create new possibilities in their communities. Unchecked, this disconnect can often lead to cultural misunderstanding, disparity, and younger generations leaving their home towns behind as they look for opportunities in urban centers.

The [Rural-Urban Student Entrepreneur Exchange Program](#) builds and helps establish a real-life understanding of business development, entrepreneurial efforts, youth leadership, and cultural awareness throughout rural and urban Montana. The Exchange Program is in its fourth year and looking to expand to 10 more classrooms in the 2016/17 school year.

“The Exchange is about entrepreneurship, but it’s beyond profit and loss – it helps clarify and bring this to life!” – participating teacher

This cost free program emphasizes life-skills development, professional job-site networking with local entrepreneurs, leadership, business development and hands-on learning. Past participants have experienced marked improvement in student engagement, innovation, community understanding and pride.

“While all of Montana may seem rural to those living out of state”, says Lisa Grace, Board Member of One Montana, “those of us who live here see the rural-urban divide play out in Montana as it does around the country. This increasing division can have a negative effect. Our goal is to rebuild these connections and open up new avenues for working together. And we believe the ‘Made in Montana’ focus will also raise awareness of how we can develop our own opportunities right in this state.”

School educators and community leaders interested in learning more about this cost free educational opportunity should call OneMontana Exchange Program manager Bobbi Geise at 522-7654 or email bobbig@onemontana.org by the end of March 2016.

Funding is available to enroll ten new partner rural and urban classes or clubs for the 2016-2017 school year. Additional information and video’s about the Exchange Program and participating school partners can be found at www.onemontana.org/what-we-do/rural-urban-student-and-entrepreneur-exchange.

Use Yammer to Communicate and Share Info with Microsoft, Developers, & Other Teachers

If you use or are interested in using Microsoft products (excluding Office) to teach with then consider joining Yammer (yammer.com). It is a Microsoft teachers only chat site where teachers can talk directly with Microsoft, the developers and other teachers using the same products.

For those teaching with Touch Develop, VB, Minecraft, Small Basic, Kodu, Project Spark, Mindstorms, misc robotics and some other odds and ends it is a must watch site.

Creative Coding through Games and Apps from Microsoft

Is your school considering offering a programming course and the teacher elected to do this has no or limited programming experience? Or perhaps you just cannot find a good first year curriculum? Take a look at [Creative Coding through Games and Apps](#).

[Creative Coding through Games and Apps](#) is an 18 week curriculum written by Microsoft. The curriculum is free, software is free and online help is free (through Yammer.com). Garth Flint, Technology Coordinator with Missoula Catholic Schools, just attended a two day seminar on the course material. If you have questions feel free to drop Garth a note at gflint@mcsmt.org.

Complete information about the [Creative Coding through Games and Apps](#) curriculum can be downloaded directly at <http://aka.ms/ccgaaboutcourse>.

March 31 is Deadline for the Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program – Get \$3000

The [Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program](#) provides for the direct repayment of educational loans. The total loan repayment assistance may not exceed \$3,000 per year for up to four years. Qualified applicants will be ranked based on a scoring system that takes into account the impacted schools and academic areas.

Applicants must submit a completed application to the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program (MGSLP) no later than March 31, 2016. Late and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

The number of annual awards is limited and contingent upon legislative appropriations. Each applicant will be scored according to the endorsement area and school of the applicant. Not all qualified applicants are guaranteed loan assistance. MGSLP will notify all award recipients by July 30, 2016. A notice will not be sent to non-recipients.

To qualify for the program you must meet the following requirements:

--A full-time educator holding a valid educator license or a licensed professional providing services to students in a school district, an education cooperative, the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, the Montana Youth Challenge Program or a state youth correctional facility.

--Teaching in an impacted school. These are defined as more rural, have a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students, and/or have greater challenges in closing the achievement gap.

--Teaching in an academic area impacted by [critical educator shortages](#). Please note, Business Education is grouped under the Career and Technical Education category.

Accepting Applications Until March 31, 2016. If you qualify for the program, [apply today](#) (registration required).

Complete details can be found at www.mgslp.org/repayment-options/discharge-and-forgiveness/quality-educator-loan-assistance-program.

Fun Facts and Trivia

The fruity & chewy candies known today as Starburst were invented in the United Kingdom by Opal Fruits and first sold in 1960 with strawberry, orange, lemon, and lime flavors.

Opal Fruits enters the United States market in 1967 and the name is changed to Starburst.

Starbursts are made with 15% of real fruit juice and are a source of vitamin C.

Each Starburst is about the size of a cubic inch.

In 1995, both Starburst Jellybeans and Starburst Candy Canes are introduced.

In honor of the new movie Pirates of the Caribbean Dead Man's Chest, Starburst flavors Kiwi Banana and Tropical Punch were switched with Royal Berry Punch.

Lime Starburst made a comeback in 2007 as a limited-edition 'retro' flavor in packages of the 'Baja' version.

Starburst also exists in the form of jellybeans, lollipops, gummies, hard candy, candy canes, candy corn, Popsicles, and lip gloss.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

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"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh