

Ed Pathways FAQ

April 19, 2024

Question: If a school has an Early Childhood program (CIP 13.1210) but wants to add a General Education program (CIP 13.0101) could they apply?

Answer: Yes, with the caveat that they meet the eligibility requirements.

Any entity that can demonstrate the capacity to support the activities described in 23 Ill. Adm. Code 256.400 is eligible. Eligible applicants cannot partner with implementing schools already served in the **fiscal year 2022 and 2024 CTE Education Career Pathway Grants**. The Ed Pathways [FY22-FY24 listing](#) shows who has received CTE Education Career Pathways funds in the past.

Question: Is this the same as the METT grant, where the EFE can submit an RFP for multiple schools (up to five schools)? Or should schools apply on their own?

Answer: Yes, the EFE can apply on behalf of 5 schools who meet the eligibility requirements. It depends on the ability of the school to have someone have the time, CTE knowledge and ability to write the grant by the May 3, 2024, deadline.

Question: Is there a list of recipients from FY 22 and FY 24?

Answer: Yes, please see the [FY22-FY24 listing](#).

Question: I have a few small districts interested in the Education Career Pathway Grant. Does the Education program of study have to be standalone in a district OR can one district set up courses and then have Level 4 and 5 courses at the area career center? So it would be year 1 at your home school and year 2 to complete the Pathway, at the area career center?

Answer: Yes. You could set up the application to reflect the home school district offering year 1 of the pathway and year 2 at the ACC with the level 4 and 5 courses. The things to remember is all the components that make up the program of study must be carefully thought through and agreed upon with all partners. Who is responsible for the WBL component? How will team challenges be handled? What CTSOs are being formed? Who is coordinating those efforts? What does dual credit look like? All the components of the application and basically the full requirements of the Education Career Pathway that leads eventually to a Education Program of Study is what you need to plan and coordinate with the ACC and the home district. That's the contract/project participation agreements that basically spell out the roles/responsibilities of all grant partners.

Question: Can individual school districts get the grant, or does it have to go through an EFE or ROE?

Answer: Individual schools can apply. They would just have to write to the specifications of the competitive grant application and complete all the aspects of CTE that are part of the grant narrative process.

Question: Could an Early Childhood Education Pathway be established with this grant, or is the grant only focusing on k-12 general education teaching?

Answer: An Early Childhood Education Pathway could be established under the guidelines of the grant.

Question: Can only districts apply for this grant, or can districts work with an EFE?

Answer: A district can apply as an eligible entity, or districts can work with an EFE as EFE are also eligible entities. No more than five implementing schools can be served; and schools served in the FY22 and FY24 CTE Education Career Pathway grants cannot be implementing schools under this grant.

Question: If an EFE is a grant recipient of the FY20 CTE Education Pathway Grant, and works with a local community college, could the community college now apply for the FY25 CTE Education Pathway Grant?

Answer: A community college is an eligible entity of FY2025 grant and must work under the guidelines with no more than five implementing school being served; and schools served in the FY22 and FY24 CTE Education Career Pathway grants cannot be implementing schools under this grant.

Question: Could a community college apply for the FY25 CTE Education Pathway Grant as also be the implementing school to establish a regional CTE Education Pathway for high school students.

Answer: A community college is an eligible entity and can serve as an implementing school to establish a program to provide dual credit with regional high school(s).

Question: Can a district receiving both Perkins and Illinois CTE funds be eligible for this grant?

Answer: Districts are eligible entities even if they receive Perkins and Illinois CTE funds. This grant is to assist districts to create a new CTE education pathway or program of study.

Question: If a district works with an IHE for dual credits, can we continue to develop a pipeline for educators?

Answer: Yes, a district can work with one special IHE to offer dual credit course work as part of the Education Pathway or Education Program.

Question: If a district is not a rural district but low income can a district still apply?

Answer: Priority points are given based on the rural and low-income status. It is not required that a school have this status to apply for the grant.

Question: Is the application under the CTE system in IWAS?

Answer: Yes, this is an electronic grant and part of the IWAS system listing. It is listed as the CTE Education Career Pathway RFP.

Question: Can an elementary district apply?

Answer: Elementary districts are not eligible. School must be offering CTE Career Pathways

Question: What are the allowable expenses in the grant application?

Answer: Allowable costs are: 1). Salaries. 2). Employee benefits, 3). Purchased services, 4). Staff travel, 5). Supplies and materials B. Specific costs must be itemized. C. Only those expenditures in excess of the regular agency or district operational costs and which are necessary for the project should be shown. D. Project funds may not be used to maintain a recipient's CTE vocational education program. E. Consultant fees must be stated, and evidence must be presented that they are in accordance with the written policy for consultant reimbursement adopted by the applicant. F. Out-of-state travel may only be used for technical training experiences not available in Illinois. Written approval must be obtained in advance of such travel from the State Board of Education. Participation in out-of-state professional association meetings and conferences will not be considered for approval. G. Travel costs to be paid must be stated, and evidence must be presented that they are in accordance with the written travel policy adopted by the applicant. H. Records must be kept demonstrating that staff travel has been limited to the purposes specified in the approved project application. I. Unless otherwise approved by the State Board of Education, non-consumable materials, such as resource materials, reference books, and reports, remain the property of and must be delivered to the State Board of Education at the end of the project funding period.

Question: Are Community Colleges required to partner with high schools on this grant opportunity?

Answer: Yes. Community colleges are required to partner with high schools.

Question: Is equipment for a program considered Supplies & Materials?

Answer: Yes. Equipment is considered supplies and materials.

Question: Is funding specific to those educators who are CTE certified?

Answer: All approved CTE Programs must be taught by a CTE licensed instructor.

Question: If a community college applies for the grant, can dual credit education courses be offered to all districts in the service area or only those who are listed as participating schools on THIS grant?

Answer: A community college can apply for the grant and must serve only the schools that are listed as implementing schools.

Question: Can some of these grant dollars be used to pay for a teacher to obtain additional educational degrees, certificates, and/or advanced course work?

Answer: Grant funds are not to be used for additional education degrees, certificates, or advanced coursework. The CTE Education Career Pathways grant is to create an education pathway or program of study for high school students in either 1) early childhood or 2) general education (PK, Elementary, Middle, High School). This pathway is taught by teachers who already have the certification as a teacher and would be required to have the appropriate education courses. The funds can be used to supplement professional development/learning for the teacher(s) of the pathway courses and can help provide professional learning opportunities tied to the implementation of the new Education pathway or program of study. Professional learning allows those teachers to remain current on educational research and pedagogy in teaching.

Question: The last time I wrote this RFP there was a budget page where you had to be very specific on the amount of the expenses. What I was unsure of was in the cost effectiveness area. Do I have to have specific dollar amounts? For instance, do I need to give specific dollar amounts for salaries and benefits. It is hard to be specific because amounts can change in a year.

Answer: You must provide enough detail to answer the questions related to the budget and cost-effectiveness. There should be specific details in the budget narrative to answer the question completely without needing more information. A budget has specific functions and objects, estimated dollar amounts with budget details to support the narrative, aligned to your goals and activities. Specific dollar amounts are simply estimates as to what the costs are at the time of writing the budget proposal. Cost-effectiveness is directly related to the amount of money spent (costs) and the amount of positive outcomes related to the number of students served and the education pathway/program of study created by the grant.