



Cannon County Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TDOE Awards Over \$2.6M in 2023-24 Perkins Reserve Grants

Funding Supports Innovative CTE Expansion Across Tennessee

Cannon County Schools Receives \$50,000.00

Nashville, TN and Woodbury, TN – Today, the Tennessee Department of Education announced over \$2.6 million in Perkins Reserve Grant (PRG) grant funds have been awarded to 32 school districts for the 2023-24 school year to support Career and Technical Education (CTE) across the state.

The purpose of PRG awards is to foster local innovation through the identification and promotion of CTE, and to support implementation of programs and career pathways aligned with regionally identified high-skill, high-wage, and/or in-demand occupations or industries. The PRG opportunity is designed especially to support districts in rural areas, maintain high CTE student participation rates, and/or report disparities in performance amongst students.

This year’s PRG grant award recipients submitted secondary and/or regional career pathways grant applications with action steps to support the department’s strategic initiative, [Innovative School Models](#), by ensuring alignment to at least one of the innovative practice areas: time, space, modes of learning, and partnerships. The regional career pathways applications also included a regionally focused secondary and postsecondary or workforce partnership.

The Tennessee school districts awarded a 2023-24 Perkins Reserve Grant are:

School District	Amount	Award Category
Alvin C. York Institute	\$50,000	Secondary
Anderson County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Bristol City Schools	\$200,000	Regional Career Pathway
Bristol City Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Cannon County Schools	\$200,000	Regional Career Pathway
Cocke County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Cumberland County Schools	\$200,000	Regional Career Pathway
Decatur County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
DeKalb County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Hamilton County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Hawkins County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary

Henry County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Huntington Special School District	\$173,000	Regional Career Pathway
Jackson-Madison County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Johnson City Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Johnson County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Lenoir City Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Lewis County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
McKenzie Special School District	\$50,000	Secondary
McNairy County Schools	\$200,000	Regional Career Pathway
McNairy County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Meigs County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Metro Nashville Public Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Obion County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Overton County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Perry County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Polk County Schools	\$200,000	Regional Career Pathway
Putnam County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Roane County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Warren County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Wayne County Schools	\$183,450	Regional Career Pathway
Weakley County Schools	\$50,000	Secondary
Total: \$2,606,450.00		

"With the Perkins Reserve Grant funding, Bristol City Schools will expand courses and programming in several growing and high-demand careers, such as agriculture, construction, information technology, health science, cybersecurity, and marketing," **said Dr. Annette Tudor, Director of Schools, Bristol City Schools.** "We are excited to provide the support needed for every learner who wishes to participate in CTE to connect their talents, passions, and interests to a future career."

"Bristol City Schools embraces innovation in CTE programming to help all students become *Future Ready* graduates," **said Deidre Pendley, CTE Director, Bristol City Schools.** "The Perkins Reserve Grant will provide more equitable access for students beginning as early as elementary school by expanding CTE courses in career exploration, STEM, health science, marketing and entrepreneurship, and information technology."

"The Perkins Reserve Grant for the upcoming year will allow Perry County Schools to expand career awareness and support high-quality learning experiences," **said Ginger Graham Cagle, CTE Director, Perry County Schools.** "Highlights of our innovative programming include expanding the agriculture school-based enterprise through the creation of a mobile point of sale, offering a business management and administration program of study embedded with Early Post-Secondary Opportunities (EPSOs) to our virtual school students, and continued support for credentialing fees to ensure access for all to those prized certifications. Our main goal is to have multiple opportunities for our students to achieve *Ready Graduate* status and improve their employability."

"Thanks to Governor Lee and the legislative body, districts like Polk County Schools can exponentially increase opportunities to reimagine learning in CTE," **said Ryan Goodman, CTE Director, Polk County Schools.** "The Perkins Reserve Grant awards will accelerate our initiative to incorporate workforce bootcamps for students linked to industry credentials in high-wage, high-skill positions."

The PRG process is a competitive grant opportunity made possible through the federal *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (Perkins V) legislation passed in 2018 which provides annual federal funding to support CTE programs nationwide. In 2020, the PRG opportunity was redesigned under the four-year [*Strengthening Career and Technical Education in Tennessee*](#) state plan. The state plan ensures alignment between PRG funding, CTE opportunities and career pathways, and the department's strategic plan, [*Best for All*](#).

“Cannon County Schools is fortunate to be a recipient of the Perkins Reserve Grant for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$200,000,” **said Mrs. Crystal Kennedy, Career and Technical Education Director Cannon County Schools.** “Being a recipient of the Perkins Reserve Grant will provide needed resources allowing Cannon County students access to industry-specific equipment and training in high skill, high wage, and in-demand occupations as well as the opportunity to graduate with post-secondary credit and credentials. Early access to these programs along with strong community and industry partners will allow students to enter the workforce better prepared and well trained to begin their chosen career.”

More information on the Perkins Reserve Grant can be found [here](#).

For Tennessee Department of Education media inquiries, contact EDU.MediaInquiries@tn.gov.

For local media inquiries, please contact Mrs. Bonnie Patterson, Director of Cannon County Schools at 629-201-4801 Extension 10125 or at bonnie.patterson@ccstn.net for local Cannon County Schools information.