



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 11, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Supervisors of Curriculum and Instruction, Perkins Project Directors, Supervisors of Career and Technical Education
From: Jordan Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services
Deadline: March 18, 2026

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Scholar Awards Program

As part of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the 3rd annual CTE Scholar Award Program (CTE SAP) that recognizes outstanding CTE students throughout New Jersey. This legislation, [P.L. 2023,c.47](#), establishes an annual recognition of student achievements to highlight the importance of CTE in meeting the needs of business and industry for highly skilled and trained workers. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) operating an approved CTE program of study are eligible to participate in this program.

The NJDOE, in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD), has developed holistic criteria to recognize outstanding CTE students. There are four criteria outlined in the legislation for recognition:

1. Demonstrate a high level of achievement in a CTE program of study as exemplified by course grades, industry-recognized technical assessments, and teacher recommendations.
2. Demonstrate a high level of achievement in at least three academic classes, as exemplified by course grades, end-of-course assessments, and teacher recommendations.
3. Successfully complete a college-level course or a work-based learning (WBL) experience including, but not limited to, employment under a cooperative education agreement, an internship, or a work-based structured learning experience.
4. Participate in a career and technical student organization (CTSO) or a community service project that demonstrates the application of career and technical skills.

The CTE SAP timeline is as follows:

- February 4, 2026 – Application window opens
- February 18 and 19, 2026 – Information sessions
- March 18, 2026 – Application due date
- May 2026 – Recognition of CTE Scholar Award Recipients

The NJDOE has developed several resources to support LEAs with the submission process. All resources and additional information can be found on the [CTE SAP webpage](#).

Below are the scheduled information sessions for LEAs highlighting evaluation of student eligibility for meeting criteria, submission of the application, and the award recognition process. Please complete and submit your registration through the [NJDOE Calendar of Events](#) by the registration due date indicated below.

Date	Time	Registration Due Date
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	10 – 11 a.m.	Monday, February 16, 2026
Thursday, February 19, 2026	2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Please send questions about the CTE SAP to CTEScholarAwardProgram@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group