



Develop student-led career exploration solutions for your peers

What is the challenge?

The U.S. Department of Education invites high schools to propose solutions that improve career exploration at their schools. This is the fourth challenge in the CTE Momentum series, and it puts CTE students in the lead: your team designs a real solution that helps your peers better explore career pathways and postsecondary opportunities in your community.

Why participate?

- **Win \$5,000 for your school.** Up to ten winning teams will receive an equal share of the \$50,000 prize pool.
- **Solve a problem you already know firsthand.** Many students and parents across the nation say they lack clear information about local jobs and CTE options, and you are best positioned to fix that at your own school.
- **Put your CTE skills to work on something real.** Design and pitch an actual solution instead of a hypothetical project.
- **Build real connections in your community.** You will engage directly with local employers, postsecondary institutions, and community organizations.

How it works

1. **Team up.** Your CTE teacher, coordinator, or director serves as team lead and submits on your behalf.
2. **Identify the gap.** Look at how students at your school currently explore post-secondary opportunities, and where they get stuck.
3. **Design your solution.** Design something that connects your school's CTE programs to local jobs and postsecondary paths.
4. **Submit and pitch.** Turn in your written submission and a short video by the submission deadline.

Key dates and eligibility

Challenge launch
August 4, 2026

Submission deadline
November 19, 2026

Your school must be eligible for Carl D. Perkins funding, and your team lead must be a CTE teacher, coordinator, or director at your school.

Ready to start?

Talk to your CTE teacher about forming a team, and visit the [challenge resource hub](https://careersinyourcommunity.ctemomentum.com) for submission guides, templates, and interview tips.