

Ohio ACTE Update

Dee Smith, Executive Director
Ohio ACTE
Preparing Next-Ready Generations

OCTA Fall Conference | October 2026

Six things, then what we need from you.

1. $9m Grant for Career Exploration
2. Find Your People
3. The leadership pipeline
4. CTE budget priorities
5. IRC redesign
6. What's ahead, and two bills to watch

NEW FUNDING | ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

Ohio won a $9 million federal grant to scale career exploration statewide.

$9M

$3 million a year for three years from the U.S. Department of Labor, with the U.S. Department of Education.

One of five awardees nationwide, and one of two funded at the maximum.

It is the same framework districts can use to meet most SB 328 requirements.

WHAT IT FUNDS

Statewide implementation of ODEW's Career Connections Framework

- Coordination, infrastructure and data systems: interests, aptitudes, planning activities, advising practices and exploration experiences
- A competitive subgrant process opening this fall
- 10 schools or districts as early adopters, across all the schools they serve

THE FRAMEWORK'S FOUR PHASES

Awareness	Exploration	Preparation	Participation
Learning of Work	Learning about Work	Learning for Work	Learning through Work

Source: Governor's office release, September 25, 2026. Career Pathways Exploration grant.

FIND YOUR PEOPLE | SEPTEMBER 28 THROUGH OCTOBER 30

Every member should have a home inside Ohio ACTE: a Division, a Community of Practice, or both.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF ADMINISTRATORS

1 Roster your whole staff

Your Educational Institution Membership covers your whole staff. Send us the names you have not rostered; there is no added cost.

2 Help your teachers find their peope, which Division or Community of Practice is theirs

https://www.ohioacte.org/chapters--divisions.html

3 Support release time for Division events

Attendance is where a Division earns its voice; a Division seats a second delegate at 100 members.

15
Divisions

22
Communities of Practice

+23%
Division membership outside Academics and Instruction this year

THE LEADERSHIP PIPELINE

From first-year teacher to the leaders who carry strategy at scale.

Shoemaker Institute

New Teacher and New Administrator cohorts are underway for 2026-27. The Shoemaker Leadership Fellowship cohort kicks off October 21-23 at the CTE Futures Forum, at Buckeye Career Center and Coshocton County Career Center.

Ohio CTE Leadership Strategy Lab, November 11

Six hours with Dr. Kevin Fleming, capped at 30 leaders, at Ohio ACTE headquarters. Application-based; applications close October 16. Member rate $495. Built for directors, superintendents, coordinators, and pathway leads who carry strategy at scale.

NEXTready Learning

Ohio CTE 101 is coming through NEXTready Learning, Ohio ACTE's professional learning channel, for the people you hire who did not come up through CTE.

CTE BUDGET PRIORITIES

Three budget priorities for February 2027.

1 Career awareness funding

Restore career awareness funding to the full amount; extend CTE weighted funding to 6th-grade VM delivery.

2 OFCC CTE program

Restructure the OFCC CTE program to serve JVSDs, compacts, and comprehensives.

3 OTC and OTC+

Restore and grow the OTC and OTC+ line item.

Budget debate opens February 2027; your cost numbers are the case.

IRC REDESIGN

70 standalone credentials and 23 bundles approved; applications close October 31.

70

standalone credentials approved

23

bundles approved

Bundle applications

Open through October 31; next window opens March 1. The Ohio ACTE Bundle Board is live: events.ohioacte.org/bundle-board

Review Committee

Met September 23: approved two Rise Up bundles and the value framework, and moved to a single simple-majority standard for bundle review. Full review of every application December 3.

Roughly 40% of impacted students in the July data.

40%

of impacted students in the July data

Special Pops "Twice as likely" to be impacted

The response

CPSN universal-design pathway work under IDEA
Batelle Technical Assistance

What do you need from Ohio ACTE on the bundles?

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR OHIO ACTE

Five dates to put on the calendar.

CTE Futures Forum — October 22-23

Strategy Lab — November 11

ACTE CareerTech VISION — December 2-5, New Orleans

Legislative Seminar — February 24-25

All Ohio 2027 — July 26-28

Strategy Lab

Strategy Lab with Kevin Fleming, November 11, Ohio ACTE headquarters. 30 seats, application-based. Applications close October 16.

NEXTready Learning

Ohio CTE 101 course coming through NEXTready Learning.

Thank You

Dee Smith, Executive Director, Ohio ACTE

dsmith@ohioacte.org | (614) 890-ACTE (2283)

