



Remake Learning Days and the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge

Remake Learning Days Festival (RLD) May 1-23, 2026

Remake Learning Days (RLD) is an innovative statewide learning festival held each spring that provides hands-on learning experiences for families and youth, fostering a sense of preparedness and a means of introducing learning resources within communities. Through seven festivals hosted across the Commonwealth, RLD collaborates on several statewide initiatives including the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge, state agency events through the PA Departments of Agriculture and Conservation and Natural Resources (State Parks), Ambassadors, and the STEM design challenge discoverED. As part of the PAsmart initiative, RLD helps provide touchpoint and deeper experiences centered on employability skills, STEM hands-on learning, and career readiness, as well as provides equitable access to free and live events across the Commonwealth.

RLD and the Pennsylvania Department of Education Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge

Remake Learning Days includes hands-on events that integrate career readiness and employability skills ([PA Career Ready Skills Continuum graphic](#)) and provides exposure to different career paths. Schools that participate in these experiences can qualify for the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge. After attending the event, learners from K-11 can earn a digital badge (artifact) for their career portfolio by completing a brief survey reflecting on what employability skills and Career Education and Work standard/s aligned to the experience. Schools with over 100 artifact surveys are awarded a banner for meeting the “Backpack Challenge.”

How does the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge support employability skills and careers?

By integrating an authentic learning experience with the PA Career Ready employability skills (critical thinking, communication, teamwork, adaptability, problem-solving, decision making, dependability, planning and organizing, business fundamentals), learners can apply skills that they will use in future careers.

How does the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge support the new and current Career Education and Work standards and why should a school register for the Challenge?

The new Career Education and Work standards include Employability Skills as a sub-strand. Because Remake Learning Days provides an authentic learning experience, is aligned to different grade levels, and provides the [digital artifact](#) required for the career portfolio, learners can participate, complete the artifact, and earn an artifact for their school. Schools must register with a single point of contact to receive the credit for each student’s individual artifact from PDE.

What is a digital artifact and why do learners need one?

All students from K-11 are required to maintain a career portfolio of evidence (artifacts) such as a written reflection on meaningful career readiness experiences aligned to the Career Education and Work standards. This is a federal requirement reported in the [Future Ready PA Index](#), a collection of school progress measures related to school and student success, including the Career Standards.

How does a school qualify for the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge?

- 1) A single school point of contact must register.
- 2) Students attend an event either in the classroom or in person with the school or with their family or caregiver.
- 3) Students complete the digital survey and submit.
- 4) Schools with 100 or more artifacts earn a banner for their school.

What makes the Career Ready PA Mega Challenge different than a Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge festival event?

PDE will award ten (10) \$1,000 awards to each of the 10 Career Ready PA regions specifically to increase school participation in the Backpack Challenge by encouraging students to submit digital artifacts for their career portfolio through one or more partnerships with schools or community organizations in a “MEGA” Challenge. School hosts who are interested in being selected by PDE and Remake Learning for the Career Ready PA Mega Challenge can submit an application by January 23, 2026, at the [2026 Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge - Mega Event School Application](#).

Hosting a Remake Learning Days Event

Remake Learning Days shines a bright spotlight on all the places where kids learn and is called one of the world’s largest open houses of learning. Be a part of the festival by hosting an engaging, hands-on learning event for youth and their families. If you or your organization are interested in sharing your craft, skills, or place of business, please consider hosting an event for your community’s learners by submitting an application on the Remake Learning Days website, [Event Hosts - Remake Learning Days](#). Our Remake Learning Days leads will help you with each step of the way.

Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge Host Qualifiers

If you choose to host a Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge event, you will answer the following questions to determine if your event qualifies for the Backpack Challenge:

- 1) Does your event provide one or more employability skills (critical thinking, communication, teamwork, adaptability, problem-solving, decision making, dependability, planning and organizing, business fundamentals)?
- 2) Does your event align to one or more of the required academic [Career Education and Work standards?](#) (Career Awareness and Exploration, Career Acquisition, Career Retention and Advancement, Entrepreneurship)

Hosts can also apply for the Career Ready PA Mega Challenge event. To determine if you are interested in earning a \$1000 Mega Challenge award, it is necessary to follow the steps below:

Career Ready PA Backpack Mega Challenge Event Host Qualifiers:

The goal of the Career Ready PA Mega Challenge is to increase school participation in the Backpack Challenge by encouraging students to submit digital artifacts for their career portfolio, as required by the Career Standards benchmark in the Future Ready PA Index.

1. School team host (administrator/s, counselor/s, teacher/s) must attend the PDE statewide webinar, "Skills That Matter: Employability and the New CEW Standards," held on [February 5](#) or [February 6](#), 2026. Click the dates to register and receive Act 48 credit.
2. School event host/s must also register on the [Remake Learning Days website](#) as a Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge event by February 13, 2026.
3. Single school point of contact must [register for the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge](#) by April 15, 2026.
4. Selected Mega Event School Awardees must complete the Participation Plan (to be shared at the training) by March 27, 2026. (Participation Plan includes one additional hour of Act 48 credits for awardees).

Additional consideration will be given to schools who partner with a Career and Technical Education (CTE) or economically disadvantaged school/s (Title I). To determine if a school is Title I, go to the Future Ready PA Index school performance [website](#) and click on "School Fast Facts."

If you choose not to do a Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge event, you can still host! It is hard to imagine a hands-on event that does not provide a learning experience, with or without the Backpack Challenge!

PDE employs Career Ready PA liaisons who will provide support to schools who wish to participate in the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge.

Remake Learning will provide support to the hosts and will help with marketing, event descriptions, attendance, and any questions along the way.

Why wait? Be a part of Remaking Learning in Pennsylvania!