

CAREER ACADEMY FUND: FAQs

What is the Career Academy Fund? The Career Academy Fund is designed to provide seed money to support the establishment of National Academy Foundation (NAF) Career Academies at DCPS and PCS high schools.

What was the impetus behind the development of the Career Academy Fund? The Career and Technical Education Plan Establishment Act¹ called for a Task Force to develop a city-wide Strategic Plan² to improve the quality, structure, and student outcomes of CTE programs in the District. The Task Force included representatives from DCPS, PCSB, the WIC, UDC-CC, the DME, the City Council Committees on Economic Development & Housing and Jobs & Workforce, and OSSE. To drive and sustain its work, the Task Force proposed the establishment of a Career and Technical Education Innovation Fund, to target supports to CTE programs that will prepare our high school and Community College students to succeed in the City's high-wage and high-demand careers. The Career Academy Fund is a component of the Career and Technical Innovation Fund.

What is a NAF Career Academy? The NAF Career Academy Model includes rigorous, industry-focused curricula, integrated industry partnerships, and work-based learning experiences. It aligns closely with the Program Quality model laid forth in the District's CTE Strategic Plan. NAF Academy students have higher attendance, school engagement, academic performance, graduation, college enrollment and completion, employment, and career earning rates than peers who do not attend NAF Academies.³

How many Academies were selected? The following nine Academies were selected by NAF to commence the Year of Planning process in the 2013-14 School Year.

#	School Name	Academy Type	Ward	Sector
1	Cardozo Education Campus	IT	1	DCPS
2	Columbia Heights Education Campus	Hospitality	1	DCPS
3	Dunbar High School	Engineering	5	DCPS
4	McKinley Technology High School	Engineering	5	DCPS
5	McKinley Technology High School	IT	5	DCPS
6	Phelps ACE High School	Engineering	5	DCPS
7	Wilson High School	Hospitality	3	DCPS
8	Friendship Collegiate Academy	IT	7	Charter
9	Friendship Tech Prep High School	Engineering	8	Charter

¹ <http://dcregs.dc.gov/Gateway/NoticeHome.aspx?SearchType=DCR&NoticeID=4385484>

² District CTE Strategic Plan: <http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/PUBLIC%20CTE%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf>

³ Orr, M.T., Bailey, T., Hughes, K.L., Karp, M.M., & Kienzl, G.S. (2004). *The National Academy Foundation's Career Academies: Shaping Postsecondary Transitions*. Institute on Education and the Economy, Teachers College, Columbia University. New York, NY.

How many applications were submitted? The National Academy Foundation received applications from two LEAs (DCPS & Friendship Public Charter Schools) for a total of nine Career Academies. NAF evaluated and deemed all nine Academy applications as eligible to enter into the Year of Planning Process, and funds were identified to support all nine Academies.

Why were the fields of IT, Engineering, and Hospitality selected? As a part of the District CTE Task Force’s development of its Strategic Plan, it collaborated with statisticians from the Department of Employment Services to analyze Bureau of Labor Statistics data to identify the District’s high-wage and high-demand career sectors. The visual below summarizes the twelve sectors identified during this analysis. The Task Force recommended that the Career Academy Fund be targeted in its first year to establish Academies in three of these twelve sectors: Information Technology, Hospitality & Tourism, and Science, Engineering, Math, & Technology. The National Academy Foundations has a proven Academy model for these three career sectors.

Science, Engineering, Math, & Technology	Information Technology	Business Management & Administration	Architecture & Construction
Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Human Services	Marketing	Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	Finance
Education & Training	Health Science	Arts, AV Technology, & Communications	Hospitality & Tourism

What is the NAF Year of Planning process? Before opening their doors to students, all NAF academies must take part in a structured Year of Planning (YOP). The YOP process involves activities, technical assistance, and supports to align resources and programs prior to implementation.⁴

What funds will Career Academies receive? Academies will receive funds to support a full time Academy Director and a College & Career Coordinator, as well as funds to support Academy activities:

School Year 2013-14 Support	Cost per Academy	Total Cost: 9 Academies
Academy Director (Salary + Fringe) ⁵	\$125,000*	\$1M*
College & Career Coordinator (Salary+ Fringe) ⁶	\$100,000	\$900,000
Academy Activity Funds ⁷	\$85,000	\$765,000
Total	\$310,000	\$2,655,000

*Schools with multiple Academies (McKinley Tech) will receive funds to support only one Academy Director.

Fund Source: Budget Support Act of 2013

⁴For more information on the Year of Planning Process, visit: <http://naf.org/yop>

⁵ Academy Director responsibilities include: student recruitment and early career awareness programming at local middle schools, marketing and public relations, managing Academy data, reporting, and evaluation, supervising curriculum, and liaising with OSSE, LEA, & NAF teams. OSSE will fund the Academy Director position in FY14, and will aim to do so again in FY15, pending renewal of local funds. LEAs & schools shall develop a sustainability plan for supporting the position going forward.

⁶ Career & College Coordinator responsibilities include coordinating internships, dual enrollment, work-based learning, and college access programming, representing the Academy on NAF Industry Advisory boards, providing individualized college and career counseling to Academy students, and liaising with Academy Director and key industry stakeholders. OSSE will fund the Career & College Coordinator position in FY14, and will aim to do so in FY15, pending renewal of Local funds. LEAs & schools shall develop a sustainability plan for supporting the position going forward.

⁷ Allowable uses of Academy Activity Funds include: Student outreach and marketing; Industry and pedagogically focused professional development opportunities to Academy faculty; Supporting industry engagement and work-based learning efforts and programs; and Student supports.

What funds will the National Academy Foundation receive to support Career Academies? NAF will receive funds to provide Year of Planning supports to the nine Career Academies. It will also receive funds to provide Technical Assistance to District education leaders at OSSE, DCPS, and Charter LEAs, and District industry leaders in the IT, Engineering, and Hospitality fields who will be providing supports to the nine Career Academies and their students.

School Year 2013-14 Support	Cost per Academy	Total Cost: 9 Academies
Year of Planning Supports	\$25,000	\$225,000
District Technical Assistance	\$14,000 (Flat Fee)	\$14,000
Total		\$239,000

Fund Source: Budget Support Act of 2013

Will Career Academy Funds continue into Fiscal Year 2015? We fully intend to request Career Academy Funds for Fiscal Year 2015. If FY15 funds are successfully secured, we intend to continue to support the Academies created in FY14, and also support the establishment of new NAF Academies in a new priority career sector.