



Benchmarks for Activities/Forums

In 1997, the School-College-Work Initiative began with Activities/Forums that were originally created to assist with the first goal of SCWI: to provide a seamless transition to post-secondary education. Activities/Forums are hands-on, one-day events that provide students, parents, and teachers with opportunities to increase their awareness of and exposure to college apprenticeship pathways. Therefore, it is recommended that Activities/Forums take place on a college campus or at a school. There is no credit value attached to this component of SCWI.

Funding from SCWI covers delivery costs to school boards and colleges. There is no cost to participants.

Priorities for Activities/Forums are outlined in the [SCWI Program Guidelines 24-25](#) Funding is limited and Regional Planning Teams (RPTs) are encouraged to prioritize the activities requested, with appropriate rationale. Activities/Forums spending should be reasonable and appropriate for the use of public funds. RPTs are encouraged to meet regularly to review their Activity/Forum needs and to use participation data from previous years to make decisions about which Activities/Forums to offer.

Activities/Forums requiring overnight accommodation will be considered only when necessary, because of distance.

Please seek approval, with appropriate rationale, through the contract change process to move funds between categories (benchmarks, teacher release, transportation, miscellaneous) or between Activities/Forums. Activity/Forum funding may also be used to fund Dual Credit seats upon approval.

Funding Categories

Activities/Forums can either be requested through the standard benchmark (\$50/participant) OR through itemized Miscellaneous funds.

In all activities and forums, whether funding is requested through the benchmark or through miscellaneous, RPTs may request funding in the request lines for "Teacher Release Time" and "Transportation" if needed.

Benchmark Funding

When the benchmark is requested, the following costs are included:

- Facilities
- Planning, coordination, or program development
- A/V tech
- Purchase of materials or resources
- Meetings or sessions
- Food and catering
- Special celebrations, award ceremonies
- Faculty and support staff
- Teacher release time where teachers are accompanying their students to the college
- Financial services institution administration fees

Miscellaneous Funding

Where benchmark funding is either too high or too low, itemized Miscellaneous funding may be requested instead. Please use the Miscellaneous section in EDCS.

Teacher Release Time

Funding can be requested for teacher release time if required. Please use the Teacher Release section on the Funding page in EDCS and include the # of hours and the Teachers' hourly rate.

Transportation

Please use the Government of Ontario rates for teacher/faculty travel (\$0.40 for Southern Ontario and \$0.41 for Northern Ontario). Please use the Transportation section on the Funding page in EDCS and include your formula calculations in the notes box.

Please contact David Armstrong at davidarmstrong@ontariodirectors.ca if you have any questions.