

2025 JumpStart Grant and Event FAQs

What is the 2025 JumpStart Grant and JumpStart Event program?

The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF)'s 2025 JumpStart grant program is designed to provide opportunities to bring students from a ProStart high school classroom to the National Restaurant Association Show as part of an immersive experience to see and learn all that the restaurant and foodservice industry has to offer, to meet with industry experts, and begin their career journey. One ProStart school applicant will be selected to bring up to eight (8) ProStart students (age 16 or older) and two (2) adult chaperones to attend the 2025 JumpStart event in Chicago, IL on May 17-19. As part of the grant award, the Foundation would arrange for and cover the costs of travel, accommodation and participation fees for such ProStart students and their chaperones identified by the grant recipient to attend. Grant funds (up to \$5,000) would also be awarded to the selected ProStart School to cover any other incidental costs their attendees may incur during their stay in Chicago.

How does the JumpStart Grant program work?

Schools with existing ProStart programs must apply for a grant to attend the JumpStart event and National Restaurant Association Show, May 17-19 in Chicago, IL by Monday, March 3, 2025, at 11:59pm ET. When applying, the school should be prepared to demonstrate how this opportunity will have a positive impact on their ProStart students and how it will help launch and support their career journeys in the industry.

What are the criteria to apply for the grant?

- Have an active ProStart program at their school.
- Have students 16 or older, interested in and available to attend the event, including the 2025 National Restaurant Association Show, May 17 – 19, 2025 in Chicago, IL
- Applicants should be available to participate in a virtual follow up meeting and fill out a survey six months after their participation. This applies to all students and teacher participants

What will the 2025 JumpStart program grant cover?

Awarded funding from the JumpStart program will cover travel and other costs affiliated with sending the recipient's selected group of up to 10 people. (8 ProStart Students and 2 chaperones) to the JumpStart event in Chicago, IL in May, including to attend the National Restaurant Association Show. The Show requires a ratio of one adult for every four students under the age of 18. This includes airfare and hotel for those selected and able to attend which will be paid directly to the hotel and travel agent by NRAEF. In addition to paying directly for these costs, NRAEF will also provide the grant recipient with a \$5,000 stipend to cover any other incidental costs the school and its attendees may incur while they are in Chicago for JumpStart, such as meals, local transportation, supplies, etc.

Who needs to submit the application?

Applications can be submitted on behalf of the ProStart school by ProStart educators, teachers of family and consumer sciences, school administrators or other individuals who are authorized by the school to apply. The application can be found at this link here – Apply today at <https://webportalapp.com/webform/jumpstartgrant>

How the grant recipient school chosen?

NRAEF assembles an impartial panel of judges to review the grant applications. During a one-week judging period, the panel will independently review each application using a defined rubric based on the underlying grant purpose and considering other criteria such as that outlined below as part of the selection process to help select the recipient. The ProStart school that receives the highest combined score from the judging panel will be selected for award of the 2025 JumpStart grant. The applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Overall impact the experience will have on the school in support of ProStart student exploration of industry careers
- Overall impact the experience will have on the ProStart students and their career journeys

Who decides which students and chaperones are selected?

Recipient Schools must identify a minimum of six and maximum of eight (8) current ProStart students (ages 16 and older) and two (2) chaperones to attend the JumpStart Event in Chicago, IL. The Show requires a ratio of one adult for every four students under 18 for utilization of the grant funds. The selection of such students and chaperones is at the sole discretion of the school and made in accordance with the School's established policies, guidelines, requirements and processes for the same, including any vetting process for students and chaperones previously established by the school for participation in school field trips. Students who are under the age of majority in their state of residence at time of entry (18 in most states) must have written permission of a parent or legal guardian to participate in and attend the JumpStart Event.

What is the timeline?

NRAEF will be accepting applications between February 1 and March 3. Judging is expected to take place in March and the school will be notified by March 15 if it has been selected for the grant. A representative will contact the selected school via email and will share important information as to the requirements to claim and receive the grant funds. The selected school will have two (2) weeks to meet such requirements to claim the grant and to agree to the associated terms and conditions for the grant award and JumpStart event attendance, otherwise once the two-week period has expired, the grant award will be forfeited and the school with the next highest combined judging score will be selected and notified.

For more information, please contact scholars@nraef.org.