



EXPLORE
THE TRADES

PLUMBING • HVAC • ELECTRICAL

**Explore The Trades Skills Lab,
Built by Ferguson**



Today's Topics

Who We Are: Explore The Trades

Eligibility: Who can apply?

Timeline: What is the timeline for this program?

Equipment: What is the process to order equipment?

Reporting: What is the follow-up for the program?

Questions: What questions do you have?



About Explore The Trades

To bridge the technical talent gap to the service trades of plumbing, heating, cooling, and electrical.



Photo courtesy of Bemidji High School, a 2023-2024 Skills Lab recipient school

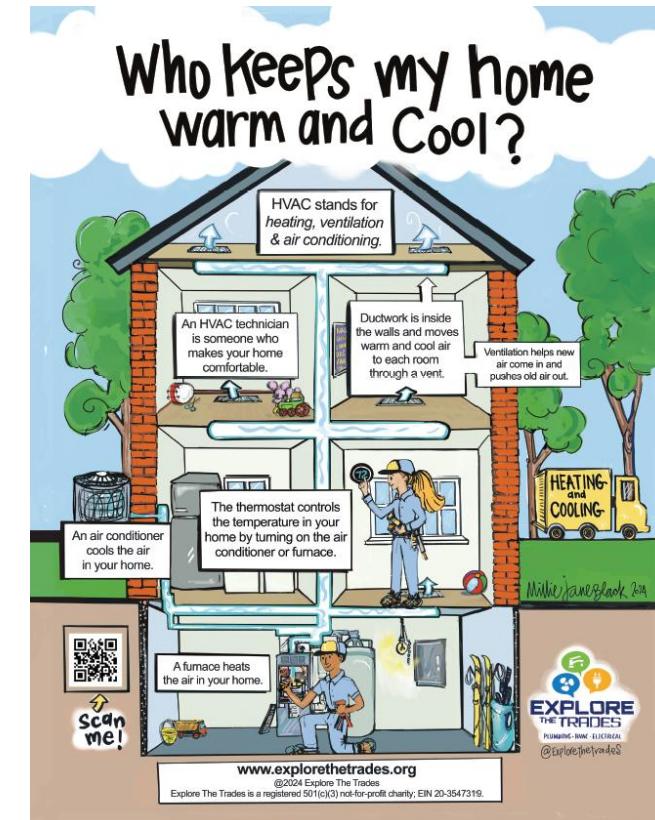




About Explore The Trades

Expanded poster kit collection:

- Spanish-translated posters
- Poster series for kids (ages five-11)





About Explore The Trades

Bring the skilled trades to your students and showcase an industry that is “more than an elective.”



The kit contains the following:

- Trades-specific career paths
- STEM and the skilled trades information
- Illustrations of how high school classes directly relate to the trades
- And more!



About the Skills Lab Program

Explore The Trades and Ferguson partnered in 2021 to bring the skilled trades back into the classroom.

In 2024, SkillCat joined this initiative to bring technical training to students of recipient schools.





Skills Lab Recipients

2024-2025 Skills Lab Recipients

- Abraham Lincoln High School - Plumbing (CO)
- Atlantic County Institute of Technology - HVAC (NJ)
- Burlington County Institute of Technology - Westhampton - HVAC (NJ)
- Cape May County Technical School District - Electrical (NJ)
- Craig Middle School - Plumbing (CO)
- Lansing Technical High School - HVAC (MI)
- Lincoln County High School - HVAC (MT)
- Newark School of Architecture & Interior Design - Plumbing (NJ)
- Toms River High School South - HVAC (NJ)
- West Orange High School - Plumbing (NJ)



Eligibility

- Middle schools and high schools (grades 6-12) are eligible to apply.
- Includes public, private, CTE, or charter schools.
- Schools that have not received a Skills Lab award previously.
- Class must be 50% related to PHCE.



Photo courtesy of Carroll County Career & Technical Center, a 2022-2023 Skills Lab recipient school



Application Types

New Skills Lab Application

No existing plumbing or HVAC equipment or education.

Refurbished Skills Lab Application

Existing plumbing or HVAC training space.

Applications

- Emailed to maddys@explorethetrades.org or rosad@explorethetrades.org
- Accessed: <https://explorethetrades.org/explore-the-trades-skills-lab/>



Timeline and Dates

March 31 -
Applications close

May 6 -
Recipients announced

July 31 -
Order skills lab equipment

April -
Applications reviewed

May - June
Work with local Ferguson contact

September - December - Skills Lab is finished



Equipment Order and Payment

- Schools will work with their Ferguson store to select equipment.
- Once the final order is ready, your Ferguson contact will send it to Explore The Trades for final approval.
- Schools are not responsible for any transactions.
- Schools may use up to 10% of their final award to purchase materials that may not be available through Ferguson.
- All items must be ordered at the same time.



Photo courtesy of Saginaw Career Complex, a 2023-2024 Skills Lab recipient school



Additional Program Details



Photo courtesy of Bronx Design & Construction High School, a 2023-2024 Skills Lab recipient school

This program does not manage or provide curriculum or instructors to school recipients.

Schools are responsible for being in accordance with both their school district and Dept. of Education requirements.



Follow-Up Reporting

- Reporting will include:
 - Student enrollment in class
 - Student success rate for completing tasks and skills
 - Student placement in apprenticeship programs
- Reporting metrics will be emailed to instructors at the end of the year:
 - **May 2027**
 - **May 2028**

*Site visits (in-person) or virtual may be requested, if scheduling permits.



Submitted Questions

- Are there multiple plumbing or HVAC paths to take, union or non-union?
- Is it possible to see a sample equipment order?
- Can trade schools or post-secondary schools apply for the Skills Lab program?
- Are pre-K through 6th grade districts eligible to apply?



Questions





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