



CTE INVESTMENT

BUILD OUR INVESTMENT IN CTE

SUPPORT FUNDING THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT

THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT

(PERKINS) is the principal source of federal funding for career and technical education (CTE)—helping to build the capacity of secondary and postsecondary institutions to offer CTE programs that are academically rigorous and aligned to the needs of business and industry.

This foundational support for CTE program improvement is essential to moving our economy forward. However, funding has not kept pace with the demand for high-quality programs:

- Perkins funding is currently more than \$140 million lower than in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010.
- Over 20 states are currently receiving federal allocations at or below the level they received in 1998.
- In a recent survey by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) approximately 73% of respondents reported flat or declining CTE budgets over the past five years.

The erosion of Perkins funding comes at a time of renewed focus on CTE programs and growth. CTE programs serve 12 million secondary, postsecondary and adult students nationally, and over 62% of programs surveyed by the EDC report anticipated growth next year.

In this fiscal environment, CTE provides a strong return on investment. Students involved in CTE programs are more engaged, perform better academically and graduate at higher rates. An educated and highly-skilled workforce provides direct benefits to American employers, strengthening the economy through increased productivity and innovation.

Congress has acted to reverse most of the harmful, across-the-board sequester cut for CTE in FY 2014, but more needs to be done to support high schools, tech centers, community colleges, employers and CTE students nationwide. Federal resources that support career education and workforce training should be directed to established and proven programs, like Perkins, that increase access to high-quality CTE for all students. It is time to build our federal investment in CTE by robustly funding Perkins CTE State Grants at \$1.264 billion in FY 2015. Congress must make investing in CTE a top priority!

Make educating and training the nation's future workforce a priority and restore funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act!

WHY CTE?

CTE students:

are more engaged in their education

graduate from high school at higher rates

score higher on academic achievement tests

gain critical employability skills

focus on high-wage, high-skill and high-demand careers

are the backbone of the future U.S. workforce!