

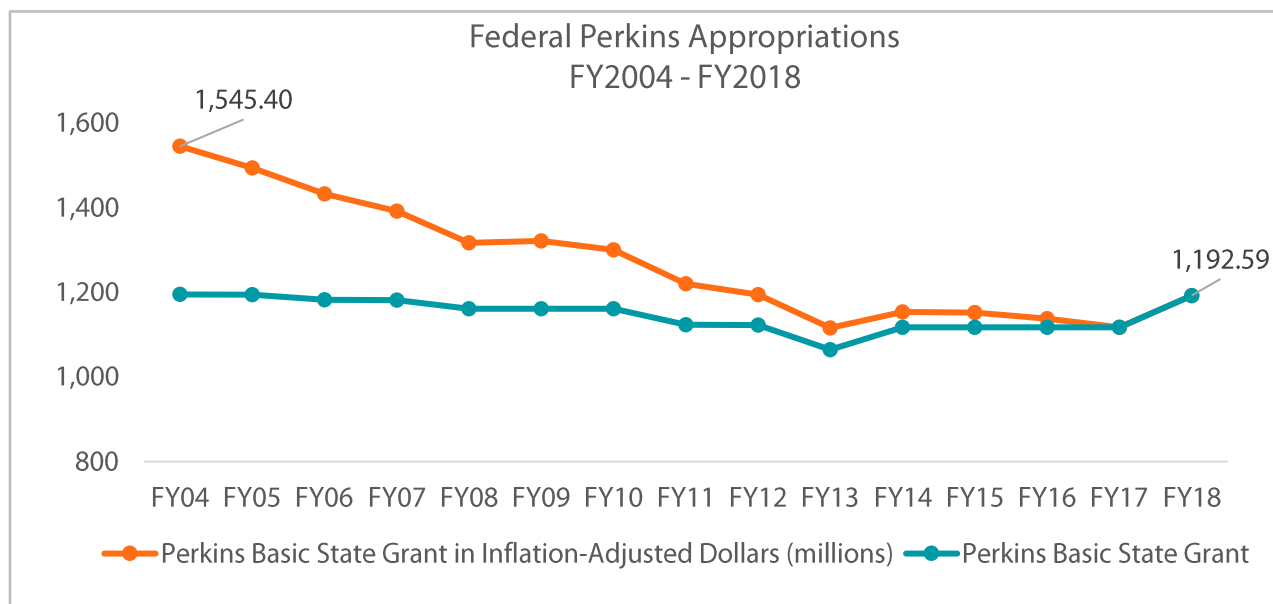
Funding Career Technical Education: An American Imperative

Career Technical Education (CTE) is a proven strategy to strengthen the U.S. economy. CTE engages students, strengthens the workforce and closes critical skills gaps. While CTE programs are supported by both state and federal dollars, nearly every community in the U.S. receives funds through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins), directly impacting more than 11.8 million learners nationwide.¹

Despite its value and impact, Perkins remains a critically underfunded program. Now is the time to increase investments in programs that work. To ensure students develop skills that meet the needs of tomorrow's economy, it is critical to sustain support and funding for CTE programs nationwide.

CTE is Chronically Underfunded

- The Perkins Act is the federal government's largest investment in CTE, but funding has not kept pace with increasing demand in a growing economy.
- Between FY2004 and FY2017, Perkins funding declined by over \$77 million dollars, the equivalent of \$427 million inflation-adjusted dollars (i.e., 28 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Taking a longer view, Perkins was relatively flat funded between 1991 and 2017, and without being tied to inflation, the program's **buying power had fallen by approximately \$933 million** in inflation-adjusted dollars between 1991 and 2017 — a 45 percent reduction over a quarter century.²
- Nevertheless, demand for CTE remains high, with 8.1 million secondary students and nearly 3.7 million postsecondary students enrolled in CTE programs nationwide.³



An Investment in CTE is an Investment in America's Economy

CTE strengthens the American economy by reducing high school dropout rates, equipping students with workforce-relevant skills and expanding a talent pool that is responsive to the needs of employers. High-quality CTE programs have a direct and measurable impact on the economy.

Consider:

- All 50 states report higher secondary graduation rates for CTE students compared to all students.⁴
- In *Arkansas*, students who concentrated in a CTE program of study were 21 percentage points more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to be employed or enrolled in a postsecondary program after high school, and earned \$45 more in wages per quarter than their peers.⁵

High-quality CTE programs can strengthen the talent pipeline by supporting a workforce that is ready to meet the demands of tomorrow's jobs.

Consider:

- About 65 percent of jobs will require education and training beyond high school by 2020.⁶
- There will be 55 million job openings in the economy through 2020. Of these jobs,
 - 35 percent will require at least a bachelor's degree and
 - 30 percent will require some college or an associate's degree.
- These jobs – sometimes called “middle skill” even though they often require highly-advanced technical skills – are often those waiting for individuals at the end of a CTE program of study.

46%

Percent of employers with difficulty finding skilled talent⁷

\$14,000

Estimated cost to business per job that goes unfilled⁸

¹ Refers to Program Year 2014-15. Source: <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEParticipant>

² Calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' CPI Inflation Calculator <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>

³ Refers to Program Year 2014-15. Source: <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEParticipant>

⁴ https://s3.amazonaws.com/PCRN/uploads/Perkins_RTC_2013-14.pdf

⁵ <https://edexcellence.net/publications/career-and-technical-education-in-high-school-does-it-improve-student-outcomes>

⁶ https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Recovery2020.ES_Web_.pdf

⁷ <http://www.manpowergroup.com/talent-shortage-2016>

⁸ www.careerbuilder.com/share/aboutus/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=pr807&sd=3/6/2014&ed=03/06/2014