

## How States Use Perkins – The Basics

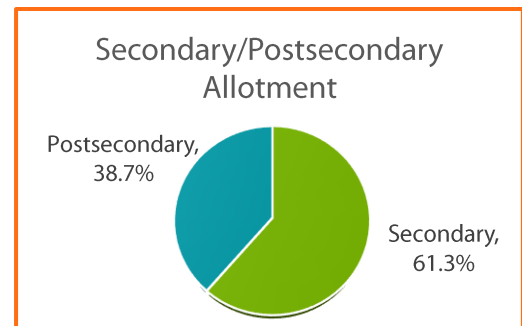
As Congress considers the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins), it is important to keep in mind how the law is currently being used and leveraged by states. Below are some key findings from an Advance CTE survey of State Career Technical Education (CTE) Directors regarding the implementation of the law, primarily focusing on the “flexible” portions of Perkins: State Administration funds, Reserve Funds and State Leadership funds.<sup>1</sup>

### State Administration:

*States set aside up to five percent of their Perkins allocation to develop and implement the state plan, review and evaluate local plans and program implementation, and provide technical assistance.*

Designated recipients of Perkins funds vary from state to state. About two-thirds are housed with the department of education and the remaining states administer CTE through a variety of agencies, such as postsecondary systems, workforce development agencies and stand-alone CTE agencies.

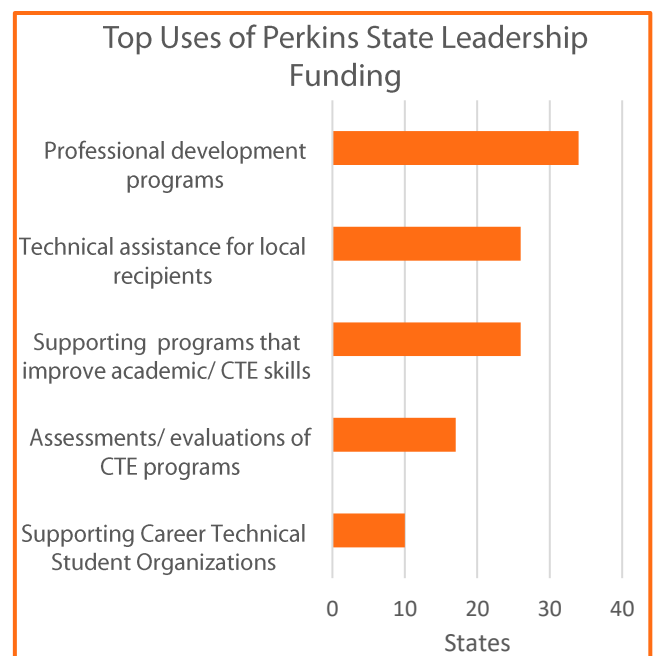
Currently, the State Perkins Eligible Agency has discretion to determine the “split” of the state’s Perkins grant between the secondary and postsecondary CTE program levels. In total, 61.3 percent of Perkins funding went to secondary CTE programs during the covered period of this survey.



### State Leadership:

*States set aside up to 10 percent of their Perkins allocation to support programs and policies that strengthen CTE, leverage technology, increase access and supports so that all students may benefit from CTE, and provide professional development and technical assistance. States can also direct leadership funds in a number of permissible activities.*

- The majority of states met the minimum requirements of the “non-traditional” set-aside<sup>2</sup> to prepare students for non-traditional fields, allocating \$73,813 on average for this purpose. Many states indicated that this set-aside would be more effective if the scope was widened to focus on equity issues more broadly.
- Three states currently leverage a provision that allows states to incentivize the “pooling” of funds among eligible recipients (i.e., incentivizing consortia formation).<sup>3</sup>



- Nearly all states dedicate a portion of state leadership funds to support state correctional institutions and institutions that serve students with disabilities, an allowable one percent set-aside.

### Reserve Funds

*States are able to set aside up to 10 percent of local Perkins funding to create a Reserve Fund, which can be distributed to locals in a method other than the formula. The funds are to be used for specialized projects benefitting rural areas, areas with a high number of CTE students, and/or areas with a high percent of CTE students. On average, states have chosen to set aside 8.5% of the available 10 percent for a reserve fund.*

In total, 35 states use the Reserve Fund option, with the most common use to target rural areas (25 states) and over 20 states using the funds to target areas with high numbers of CTE students and/or areas with high percentages of CTE students. There is a fairly even split between states that distribute funds based on a formula (11 states), competitively (9 states) or a combination of formula and competitive grants (11 states).

### Programs of Study

*Programs of study are non-duplicative sequence of academic and technical courses that extend across secondary and postsecondary and culminate in a degree or credential of value. States are required to support at least two programs of study and all local Perkins recipients are required to support at least one program of study. This was a new requirement under the 2006 reauthorization.*

**70%**  
*Percent of states requiring programs of study to be aligned with labor market demand*

A significant majority of states require locals to distribute dollars to programs of study above the current minimum requirement.

- Nearly 50 percent of states indicated that they require local Perkins recipients to implement programs of study above the current minimum threshold.
- 38 percent of states require over half of local Perkins funding to be distributed to programs of study at the secondary level, and 34 percent of states require such distribution at the postsecondary level.

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was conducted from December 17, 2013 through January 31, 2014 reflecting the most recent program year for the Perkins Act at that time (PY 2012-13). The survey garnered a nearly unanimous response rate with 48 states and 3 outlying territories responding. Non-responding states included Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and the District of Columbia.

<sup>2</sup> Sec. 112(a)(2)(B)

<sup>3</sup> Sec. 124(c)(10)(B) and Sec. 135(c)(19)