

Introduction

Career Technical Education (CTE) sits at the intersection of education, workforce and economic development. It spans secondary and postsecondary learner levels and it connects academic and technical instruction. Cross-system alignment and collaboration is a central tenet of CTE. The enactment of The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) sought to reinforce this, requiring coordination between secondary and postsecondary education, close alignment between education and the workforce development system and strengthened and expanded connections between Perkins V and other federal laws.

Stakeholder engagement and consultation requirements, important avenues to promote collaboration, were significantly expanded under Perkins V:

- An expanded list of stakeholders who must be consulted during the state plan and local application development.
- Stakeholder input is required in the selection of the state’s secondary quality indicator and in establishing state determined levels of performance.
- The Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA), a new component of Perkins V, requires stakeholder involvement and resulting collaboration across education levels and systems. The continued consultation for implementation of the CLNA seeks to ensure coordination of funding streams, update programs so that they are responsive to labor market information and employer needs and make any adjustments to the CLNA that can help push forward program quality.

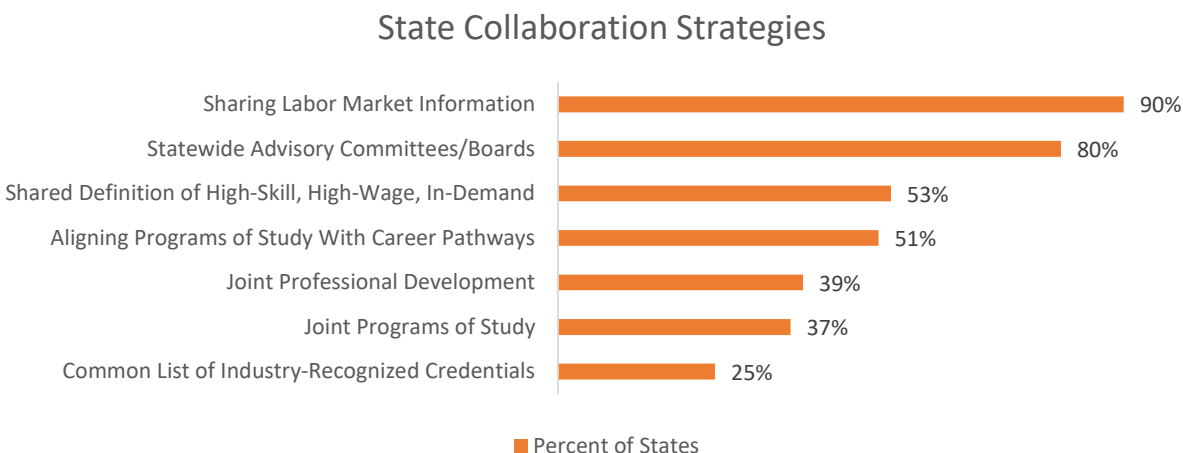
Perkins V also provides avenues for collaboration – including some statutory requirements - with other federal laws, such as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Higher Education Act (HEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). However, some of the most significant opportunities for alignment are with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Collaboration and alignment opportunities range from required elements in the state plan alignment to shared definitions and labor market information to an allowance for states to submit a single, combined plan that fulfills the requirements of both Perkins V and WIOA.

An Overview of How Cross-System Collaboration Appears in State Plans

An analysis of all state plans found that there were a variety of ways states plan to ensure cross-system collaboration. For example, in order to prompt alignment and partnership between the education and workforce systems:

- 90 percent of states share labor market information data across education and workforce systems;
- 80 percent of states have statewide advisory committees or boards that include members across systems;
- 53 percent of states have a shared definition of “high skill,” “high-wage” and “in-demand;” and
- 18 percent of states submitted a combined WIOA and Perkins V state plan. These states are Alabama, Delaware, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and Washington.

An overview of common strategies can be viewed in the below chart:



To learn more about how collaboration appears across state plans, check out the full report on the [State of CTE: An Analysis of States' Perkins V Priorities](#).

Louisiana Leverages Perkins V for Regional Collaboration

[Through Perkins V, Louisiana created and launched Perkins Regional Coalitions](#) as a mechanism to fund, deliver and develop high-quality CTE programs. The coalitions are required to include secondary and postsecondary CTE along with several other key stakeholders. A unique membership requirement for these coalitions is the inclusion of adult education and state corrections representatives since those groups work with adult CTE students. All stakeholders in the Perkins Regional Coalitions can collaborate on program development and delivery in order to best provide the resources that each learner needs to succeed. The coalitions are regionally based partnerships that are co-located geographically with the state's regional labor market areas — regions that are identified by the state's workforce board. In doing so, Louisiana's Perkins Regional Coalitions more closely align with the state's WIOA governance structure at the local level, allowing them to be even more responsive to the region's economic needs.

Regular communication is key to the success of the Perkins Regional Coalitions. Through the first full year of implementation it has become clear that not only do all stakeholders need to be on the same page about the goals and objectives of the coalition, but there also clear roles for individual partners, as well as, how all partners come together.

Learn More About the Perkins Regional Coalitions

The Perkins Regional Coalitions also serve as the lead entity for the CLNA process and will help to identify work-based learning opportunities and evaluate CTE program offerings for quality. The coalitions broadly focus on various funding streams, including Perkins, that are available to members of the coalition to further coordinate the use of these funds and maximize their impact. Coalitions must identify at least three Career Clusters® to prioritize for each region. In future years, the state anticipates that Perkins funds will be made available to these coalitions only for CTE programs of study that are aligned to the Clusters identified by these consortia. As an added incentive, the state is also directing a portion of its Reserve Fund to support these efforts.

Each region meets at least once per quarter, during which all stakeholders are invited. Additionally, representatives from the Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) are in attendance to answer any questions that arise. A CTE coordinator from LCTCS will also meet with each regional lead once per month to get an update on progress and provide any support needed.

Looking Ahead

Cross-system collaboration is often robust in the plan development phase but regrettably trails off in implementation. However, to successfully achieve a state's shared vision for education and workforce it is imperative that cross-system collaboration and engagement is ongoing. In their Perkins V state plans, states took steps to systemize and commit to a variety of mechanisms to ensure this critical collaboration is ongoing.

State Mechanisms for Ongoing Stakeholder Input

