

Understanding the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V)

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) reauthorized the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins). Perkins is a federal education program that invests in secondary and postsecondary Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in all 50 states and the territories.

What is the Purpose of Perkins?

Perkins is dedicated to increasing learner access to highquality CTE programs of study. With a focus on systems alignment and program improvement, this law has been critical to ensuring programs meet the ever-changing needs of learners and employers.

Who Benefits from Perkins?

- Learners: Approximately 9 million secondary learners and 4 million postsecondary learners are enrolled in CTE programs nationwide.¹
- Employers: Before the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the United States saw 113 months of job growth, which resulted in nearly 60 percent of companies reporting having difficulty filling job openings because of a lack of qualified applicants². The coronavirus caused organizations to rapidly change business models or shift to virtual work environments, which meant that employers needed to reskill or
 - upskill employees to adapt³. As labor market needs change, and employment standards change, CTE programs can prepare employers and employees alike for the future of the workplace⁴.
- Communities: A community with a skilled workforce leads to a strong economy. For example,
 Washington has found a return of \$7 for every dollar invested in CTE at the high school level, while taxpayers in Wisconsin see a return of \$12.20 for every dollar invested in its technical college system.^{5,6}

Who Receives Perkins Funding?

States designate an eligible agency to administer Perkins. In all but 13 states and territories, this entity is the state education agency. Other eligible agencies include:

- Postsecondary systems (CO, HI, KS, LA, MN, MT, WV, WI and Guam)
- Standalone CTE agencies (ID, ND and OK)
- Workforce boards (IN and WA)

At the local level, funds can go to comprehensive high schools, technical high schools, area technical centers, career academies, community and technical colleges, early college high schools, public charter schools, preapprenticeship/youth apprenticeship programs, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Tribal educational agencies, and tribally controlled colleges or universities.

What is CTE?

CTE is an educational option that provides learners with the knowledge and skills they need to be **prepared for college and careers**. CTE gives purpose to learning by emphasizing **real-world skills** and practical knowledge within a selected career focus.

Learners in CTE programs take specialized courses, in addition to required courses, and often can participate in **internships**, engage with mentors, and practice what they are learning through **hands-on projects**.

Learners can participate in CTE at the middle or high school level and at postsecondary institutions in nearly every community in every state across the United States.

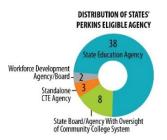


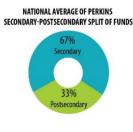


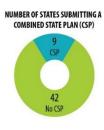
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How Are Perkins Funds Distributed?

The law includes specific formulas that take poverty and population into account to guide the distribution of funds from the federal government to states and from states to local communities.







How Are Perkins Funds Invested?

Perkins gives states and local communities a lot of flexibility to determine how best to use this funding. Perkins funds support a variety of activities, including:

- Professional development and technical assistance
- Creation of new, innovative programs of study
- Support for implementation and continuous improvement of existing programs of study
- Career exploration, guidance and advisement
- Data collection and analysis, including program and plan evaluation and monitoring
- Efforts to identify and close equity gaps

How Does Perkins Fit into the Federal Policy Landscape?

CTE sits at the intersection of education, workforce development and economic development. While the U.S. Department of Education provides federal oversight for the law, Perkins has strong ties to an array of federal laws including, but not limited to:

- Every Student Succeeds Act
- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- The Higher Education Act
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Programs of Study

Programs of study are non-duplicative sequences of academic and technical courses that extend across secondary and postsecondary institutions and culminate in a degree or credential of value. Perkins requires that all local recipients must offer at least one program of study. However, 77 percent of states require locals to offer more than one program of study.

These connections occur through coordinated planning and implementation requirements, cross-statute stakeholder input, aligned definitions and accountability indicators, and coordination of learner supports.

How Can I Learn More?

- Visit the Perkins section of the Advance CTE website: https://careertech.org/Perkins
- Read The State of Career Technical Education: An Analysis of States' Perkins V Priorities
- Check out Perkins resources: https://careertech.org/resources/perkins-v

⁶ https://www.wistechcolleges.org/your-education/making-futures-blog/four-ways-your-tax-dollars-provide-strong-return-investment



¹ Refers to Program Year 2018-2019. Source: https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEParticipant

² https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/manufacturing/articles/future-of-manufacturing-skills-gap-study.html

³ https://www.nga.org/memos/rapid-reskilling-covid-19/

⁴ https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/documents/fact-sheets/CTE_Prepares_Learners_Future_Work_2020.pdf

⁵ https://www.wtb.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-Dashboard.pdf