

Career and Technical Education Programs of Study

Background

One of the requirements for the new Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 is the development and implementation of “career and technical programs of study.” These programs of study are referenced throughout the Act. States must develop the programs of study in consultation with local programs. Each local recipient receiving funds under the bill will be required to offer a sequence of courses of **at least one**. Programs of study build on initiatives already underway including Tech Prep, career pathways, career academies, and career clusters.

Description

One of the references to programs of study in the Perkins Act is in Section 122 which identifies information each state must include in its state plan including a description of programs of study for career and technical content areas that:

- Incorporate secondary education and postsecondary education elements;
- Include coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant career and technical content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses that align secondary education with postsecondary education to adequately prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education;
- May include the opportunity for secondary education students to participate in dual or concurrent enrollment programs or other ways to acquire postsecondary education credits; and
- Lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree;
- Identify and address current or emerging occupational opportunities;

Funding

Funds to support the development and implementation of programs of study are identified in the Perkins Act. These include State Leadership in section 124, Tech Prep in section 203 and local (required and permissive) in section 135.

Developing Programs of Study

It is recommended that programs of study be developed in partnership with all stakeholders including secondary CTE teachers, community and technical college staff, university faculty and business industry representatives. States may develop the programs of study, or approve locally developed programs of study, depending on the process outlined in their Perkins state plan. Formatting of programs of study should reflect the components identified in the above description. Examples of program of studies may be available from school districts, community and technical colleges, universities and organizations or groups interested in successful transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

Resources / References

Perkins Act of 2006

www.acteonline.org

www.careerclusters.org

www.league.org/ccti