



CCSSO Priorities for a Reauthorized Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs provide essential academic and technical instruction that enables students to put themselves on track to successful careers. The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins), provides critical federal resources that allow states to enhance, expand and improve opportunities for all students.

As Congress works to update Perkins, states are implementing new approaches to preparing students for success after high school. In 2016, CCSSO, Advance CTE, and Education Strategy Group partnered with JPMorgan Chase on **New Skills for Youth**, an initiative to advance career readiness for all students nationwide. Through this initiative, states are working to increase access to meaningful career pathways for more kids.

New Skills for Youth is grounded in a commitment to equity for all kids – particularly economically disadvantaged students, students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities – and that each and every child should be afforded high-quality options that prepare them for education beyond high school and provide pathways into high-demand, high-paying careers. More information about how states are leading through New Skills for Youth can be found at www.ccsso.org/topics/career-readiness or www.ccsso.org/resource-library/new-skills-youth-fact-sheet.

As part of any effort to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, CCSSO has the following recommendations:

1. Allow for future innovation and emerging economies.

Perkins was last reauthorized in 2006. Since that time, the employment marketplace and career paths have changed dramatically. Health care, information technology, and many other cutting-edge fields have growing demands for well-educated and trained workers. An updated Perkins Act should reflect current employment needs, while also providing states and communities the flexibility to respond to changes in the economy, technology, and employment opportunities. CCSSO urges Congress to reauthorize Perkins with this overarching goal in mind.

2. Enhance flexibility in state setting of performance and outcomes.

A reauthorized Perkins Act would empower states by providing flexibility. This would allow states to customize programs and program accountability to unique state workforce needs including, for example, looking to Perkins to help diversify the teacher workforce and address educator shortages, particularly in areas that meet regional workforce needs.

3. Align Perkins Act with recently reauthorized ESEA and WIOA statutes.

Congress recently updated the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the largest source of Federal funds for K-12 education, and passed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, an update to the nation's Federal job training laws. These two laws now reflect current thinking about how federal law can help states ensure educational and occupational excellence. CCSSO

urges Congress to align the Perkins Act with these two new laws to ensure that all three of these major federal funding sources can work in concert to improve educational and employment attainment.

We encourage Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize this important law. For more information on CCSSO's priorities for Perkins reauthorization, please contact Peter Zamora, Director of Federal Relations, at Peter.Zamora@ccsso.org.