



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION

May 20, 2021

Dear State Directors of Career and Technical Education:

As states continue to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are writing to provide an update on the accountability and reporting requirements for the 2020-2021 school year under the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006*, as amended by the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (Perkins V or the Act). The shift from in-person learning to remote instruction in response to COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on public education. This is particularly true in career and technical education (CTE), which has traditionally been reliant upon a hands-on curriculum to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers. Given the exceptional and uncontrollable circumstances this past 2020-2021 school year, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) will not count this year's (2020-2021) performance levels in determining whether a state has met State-determined performance levels (SDPLs) as a part of a program improvement plan.

However, it is imperative that we understand the impact that COVID-19 has had on student learning and that we identify what resources students need as states reopen schools. The Department will, therefore, maintain data reporting and improvement plan requirements so that we may better understand the impact of COVID-19 on CTE students.

Accountability

We are pleased to communicate that the Secretary will use the authority in section 123(a)(3)(B) of Perkins V to waive the “subsequent action for consecutive years” provision (in section 123(a)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act) for the 2020-2021 school year in response to the hardships that many states faced, and are still facing, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pursuant to section 123(a)(3)(A)(ii) of Perkins V, if a state fails to meet at least 90 percent of a SDPL for any specific core indicator of performance that was identified in a program improvement plan for two consecutive years after the state has been identified for improvement, the Secretary may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, withhold from the State all, or a portion, of the state's administrative or leadership funds. Under Perkins V, the 2020-2021 school year is the first full year of Perkins V implementation and is, thus, the first year for which states would be held accountable for their SDPLs. However, due to the exceptional and uncontrollable circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary is using the waiver authority in section 123(a)(3)(B) of Perkins V to delay the implementation of the “subsequent action for consecutive years” provision until the 2021-2022 school year. This means that failure to meet the 90 percent threshold for any of the

400 MARYLAND AVE. SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
www.ed.gov

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

core indicators of performance during the 2020-2021 school year will not count for purposes of Perkins accountability, i.e. toward the “subsequent action for consecutive years” provision in Perkins V.

Just as the Secretary is waiving this provision for states, we encourage states to use the waiver provision under section 123(b)(4)(B)(i) of Perkins V to delay the implementation of the “subsequent action for consecutive years” provision until the 2021-2022 school year for local Perkins subrecipients.

Although the Secretary is using the waiver authority, states are still required to develop and implement program improvement plans consistent with section 123(a)(1) of Perkins V if they fail to meet the 90 percent threshold for any of their SDPLs for the 2020-2021 school year. Pursuant to the *Perkins V Guide for the Submission of Consolidated Annual Reports (CAR)* (OMB Control Number 1830-0569), a state must submit any program improvement plans as part of its CAR submission. For the 2020-2021 school year, the CAR and any program improvement plans will be due by January 31, 2022. The information provided via states’ program improvement plans, including performance disparity analyses and actions that will be taken to address such disparities, will enable targeting of resources and supports and sharing of best practices as states work to meet the needs of students while continuing to address the impact of COVID-19. Our office looks forward to assisting states in identifying additional tools to improve the educational outcomes of CTE students.

Reporting

The Secretary believes that it remains critical that parents, educators, and the public have access to current data on the core indicators of performance for CTE concentrators. Reporting of this data is essential to providing valuable information about the impact of COVID-19 on learning among CTE students. Therefore, the Department is not making any changes to the Perkins V reporting requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. Similarly, [the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education’s February 22, 2021, letter](#) indicated that while states could utilize flexibilities in the administration of statewide assessments, they are still required to report data. Our office will also require states to submit available data for each of the Perkins V section 113(b)(2) core indicators of performance for all students, as well as disaggregated data by the special population categories in Perkins V, subgroups of students in the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*, and by career cluster.

For Further Assistance

Our office will schedule a Town Hall Webinar for state CTE directors and their staff to review this information in detail and to provide a forum for questions and answers. In the interim, if you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact your Perkins Regional Coordinator.

Please know that our office stands ready to assist you and your students, educators, and schools during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

/s/

Amy Loyd, Ed.L.D.
Acting Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical,
and Adult Education