

## How States Use Perkins – The Basics

As Congress considers the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins), it is important to keep in mind how the federal investment the law authorizes is currently being used by states. Below are some key findings from an Advance CTE survey of State CTE Directors regarding the implementation of the law, primarily focusing on the “flexible” portions of the Perkins Basic State Grants (Perkins grant): State Administration funds, State Leadership funds and Reserve Funds<sup>1</sup>.

### Local Recipients

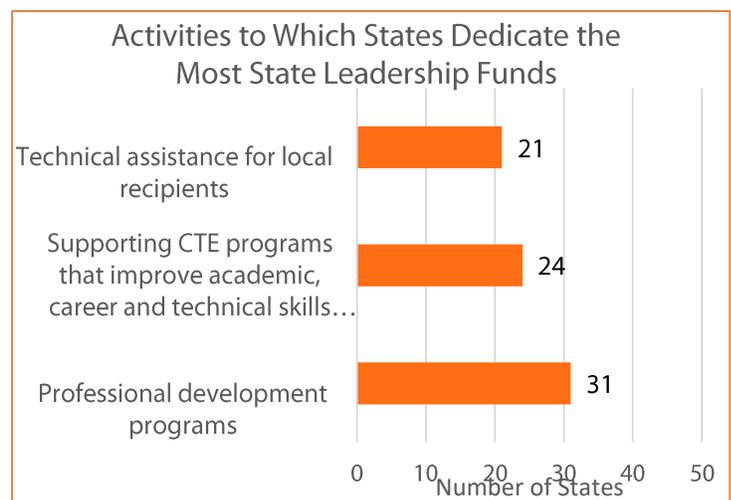
In total, at least 85 percent of each state’s Perkins grant must go to local eligible recipients. Local eligible recipients include school districts and area technical centers at the secondary level and community/technical colleges, institutions of higher education, and area technical centers at the postsecondary level. The agency that administers the state’s Perkins grant, the eligible agency, has discretion to determine the “split” of the state’s Perkins grant between the secondary and postsecondary CTE program levels.

On average, eligible agencies split the state’s Perkins grant by dedicating 62 percent to secondary CTE programs and 38 percent to postsecondary CTE programs. Broadly speaking, local recipients must use their Perkins funds to improve CTE programs, which includes activities such as program evaluation, implementation of programs of study, and professional development for CTE instructors.

### State Leadership

Ten percent of a state’s Perkins allocation is set aside for state leadership activities, which states can dedicate toward 26 required and permissible activities<sup>2</sup>. The top uses of these funds are outlined below.

- 50 states report using a portion of their leadership funds on supporting or improving new CTE courses or initiatives and the improvement of career guidance and academic advisement.
- 42 states report using a portion of their leadership funds to establish agreements between secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and to support partnerships between educational institutions and businesses.
- Seven states currently leverage a provision that allows states to incentivize the pooling of funds among eligible recipients (i.e., incentivizing consortia formation)<sup>3</sup>.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

### Reserve Funds

States are able to set aside up to 10 percent of local Perkins funding to create a reserve fund. The funds are to be used for specialized projects benefitting rural areas, areas with a high number of CTE students, and/or areas with a high percentage of CTE students. States can choose how to distribute these funds to local recipients: a formula, through competitive grants or a combination of formula funds and competitive grants.

In 2017, 38 states dedicated a portion of the local allocation to the creation of a reserve fund. Most states distribute these funds competitively (16 states), and the others distribute funds based on a formula (10 states), or a combination of formula and competitive grants (9 states).

### Programs of Study

Programs of study are non-duplicative sequence of academic and technical courses that extend across secondary and postsecondary and culminate in a degree or credential of value. The 2006 reauthorization of Perkins included a requirement that all local Perkins recipients must offer at least one program of study. The eligible agency may require local recipients to offer more than the minimum of one program of study or to dedicate a certain amount or percentage of funds to programs of study.

12

*States report that they require local secondary recipients to distribute 100 percent of their Perkins funds to programs of study*

Many states require locals to dedicate at least half of their funds to programs of study.

- At the secondary level, 25 states indicated that they require local Perkins recipients to invest between 51-100 percent of their funds to programs of study.
- At the postsecondary level, 21 states indicated that they require local Perkins recipients to invest between 51-100 percent of their funds to programs of study.

---

<sup>1</sup> The survey was conducted from June 23, 2017 through August 8, 2017. The survey garnered a nearly unanimous response rate with 50 states, the District of Columbia and Guam. Non-responding territories included Palau and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

<sup>2</sup> Sec. 124(c)(10)(B) and Sec. 135(c)(19)

<sup>3</sup> (Sec. 124(c)(10)(B) and Sec. 135(c)(19)