

PERKINS Update

On August 12, 2006, President Bush signed into law the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006. The Perkins Act supports career and technical education that prepares students both for postsecondary education and the careers of their choice, making it a critical piece of legislation for our field.

The new law requires:

- using the term “career and technical education” instead of “vocational education”;
- maintenance of the Tech Prep program as a separate federal funding stream within the legislation;
- maintaining state administrative funding at 5 percent of a state’s allocation.
- programs of study linking academic and technical content across secondary and postsecondary education;
- strengthened local accountability provisions that will ensure continuous program improvement.
- the implementation of programs that prepare special populations for high-skill high-wage occupations.
- the improvement of programs and services for students and individuals pursuing nontraditional occupations.
- the development of valid and reliable assessments of technical and career competencies that are aligned with national industry standards.
- integrating evaluations with national industry certification requirements.

Advantages of the new legislation include:

- well-designed CTE programs that are in compliance with the law will enable a reduction in dropout rates.
- expanded provisions for special populations.
- increased accountability measures and higher expectations of success rates among students.
- prescribed career goals-oriented programs of study.
- improved professional development programming for CTE teachers.
- strengthened connection between the CTE programs to the needs of business and industry.
- helps prepare high school students for transition to the workplace or a post-secondary degree.

The Perkins Act provides approximately \$1.3 billion in federal support for CTE programs throughout the United States. The reauthorized law will extend through 2012. For more information on the Perkins reauthorization, click on the link located on our site at

<http://ctsp.tamu.edu>