



Strengthening Career & Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V)

April 17th, 2019- Public Hearing

Background:

The Perkins grant is a federal education program that invests in secondary and post-secondary Career & Technical Education programs in all 50 states and territories. Every time Perkins funding is re-authorized, each state and territory receives guidelines for the grant, but each state must ask for stakeholder input on all aspects of the implementation to align with state needs.

Career & Technical Education (CTE) is an educational option that provides learners with the knowledge and skills they need to be prepared for college and careers. CTE gives purpose to learning by emphasizing real-world skills and practical knowledge within a selected career focus. Learners in CTE take specialized courses, in addition to required courses, in a specific program of study. These are known as Montana Career Pathways.

As stakeholders, we are asking for your ideas to create a Strategic Plan for CTE for the next 10 years.

1. What types of workforce development activities should the State support, in order to address the education and skill needs of employers in the state?

(Current MT Career Pathways include: Health Professions; Information Technology; STEM; Education; Hospitality; Human Services; Finance; Business Management; Marketing; Welding & Fabrication; Transportation; Design & Construction; Advanced Manufacturing; Ag Mechanics & Construction; Ag, Food & Natural Resources)

2. What should be the process and criteria used for approving locally developed programs of study/career pathways, including how such programs address State workforce development and education needs?

(Current approval requires each program area to have two credits of coursework in one of these specific areas. Additional opportunities might include Student organization membership (BPA, DECA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, Skills USA, TSA); work-based learning; dual enrollment; industry-recognized credentials, etc.)

3. How should the State promote continuous improvement in academic achievement and technical skill attainment in these Career Pathways?

(Currently CTE program and core subject areas have little, if any, collaboration. OPI uses the ACT test score as a measure of academic success)

4. How can we support effective and meaningful collaboration between secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, and employers to provide students with experience in, and understanding of, all aspects of an industry? This may include internships, mentorships, simulated work environments, and other hands-on or inquiry-based activities.

5. Other concerns or observations regarding Perkins V?