

**Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act
(Carl D. Perkins V)**

Public Hearing Notice

(All documents for Perkins V are posted at: www.mus.edu/Perkins V)

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) must jointly conduct public hearings for state plan development or substantive changes to the plan. The purpose of a hearing is to afford all segments of the public, interested organizations and groups an opportunity to present their views and make recommendations to the plan to be submitted to the federal Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) for approval.

The dates, times and places of these meetings must be posted on the OPI and OCHE websites; advertised in major Montana publications; and emailed to OPI and OCHE CTE email lists. The current Perkins V Transition Plan (covering FY 2019—2020) and any summary documents from the working groups must be available for review on the OCHE workforce Development website at the time of posting.

Because of the long distances for travel to public meetings in Montana, and to allow widespread participation in the hearing process, the formal public hearings may be conducted via video conference. This also enables participants in each location to hear views and recommendations presented in other locations throughout the state. The number of conference sites must adequately represent the Career and Technical Education (CTE) constituency. Video conferencing will originate in Helena, facilitated by OCHE and OPI administrators for Career and Technical Education.

Public hearings will begin with a detailed briefing of all aspects of the State Plan and a timeline for the public hearings process, including follow-up after the hearing has been completed. Participants may present oral or written statements at the public hearing. The hearing record will be kept open for a minimum of ten working days after each hearing to allow for the submission of additional written comments or objections. The eligible agencies will respond to all written comments within ten days.

A state agency may file objections to the Montana State Plan or revisions with the OCHE Perkins Deputy Commissioners of Two Year Education within the public comment timeline. The Deputy Commissioner of Two Year Education will have ten working days to respond to the objection. The objection and the response will be published on the OCHE website. The objecting party will have ten working days to appeal the response. In this event, the objection will go before the State Executive Leadership Team (SELT) and the Commissioner of Higher Education. A response must be provided within 30 days. This is the last step in the process for resolving objections.

Minutes will be taken during the hearing, will include written comments from the meeting, and submitted after the hearing. Final minutes will include the response from the state and will be posted on the OCHE website. After the Perkins administrative teams review all state agency objections, public comments, recommendations, and responses, the revised Perkins State Plan must be published to the OCHE Workforce Development Website for public viewing.