

Perkins IV – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV)?

The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV), which took effect in Program Year (PY) 2007 (beginning July 1, 2007), is the principal source of federal funding to states for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs. Each year under Perkins IV, Congress has appropriated more than \$1.1 billion dollars for grants to states, including the basic state grants (under Title I) and tech prep grants (under Title II).

2. How is career and technical education defined?

Perkins IV defines career and technical education as organized educational activities that offer a sequence of courses that provides individuals with the academic and technical knowledge and skills the individuals need to prepare for further education and for careers in current or emerging employment sectors. Career and technical education includes competency-based applied learning that contributes to student's academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills, technical skills, and occupation-specific skills.

3. Where is career and technical education offered?

Career and technical education is offered in middle schools, high schools, community and technical colleges, and other postsecondary institutions.

4. How much money do states receive through Perkins IV?

For PY 2007–08, which corresponds to the Department's FY 2008 appropriation, Congress appropriated just over \$1.14 billion dollars under Title I and \$102 million dollars under Title II.

5. What factors determine how much a state receives under Title I?

Title I grants are allotted to states through a formula based on the states' populations in certain age groups and per capita income. States are then required to distribute not less than 85 percent of their Title I funds by formula to local education agencies, area vocational and technical schools, community colleges, and other public or private nonprofit institutions that offer career and technical education programs. Each state determines the split of funds to be distributed to recipients at the secondary versus postsecondary level.

The state-level agency responsible for administering the Perkins grant may not spend more than 5 percent of their Perkins grant on administrative activities and not more than 10 percent of their award on state leadership activities described in the legislation. Similarly, local recipients may not spend more than 5 percent of their Title I funds on administrative activities.

A new provision under Perkins IV allows states to consolidate all or a portion of their Title II funds into their Title I allocation. About one-third of all states have opted to do so.

6. What factors determine how much a state receives under Title II?

Title II grants are allotted to states through the same formula that is used to fund Title I grant to states (see Question 5 above). The formula is based on the states' populations in certain age groups and per capita income.

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7. How do states allocate Title I funds to local education agencies?

States determine what share of Title I funds should be allocated to secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs in their state. Over the past five years, states allocated an average of 60 percent of their funds to secondary education programs and 40 percent to postsecondary education programs. For PY 2007–08, the states allocated an average of 63 percent of their funds to secondary education programs and 36 percent to postsecondary education programs.

States determine the amount of funds for each local education agency based on secondary and postsecondary allocation formulas that are described in sections 131 and 132, respectively, of Perkins IV.

8. How do states allocate Title II funds to local education agencies?

States distribute their Title II funds by formula or competitive process to local consortia comprising local education agencies and institutions of higher education as defined in the legislation. Local consortia also may include employers, business intermediaries, or labor organization.

9. What are allowable uses for Perkins IV funds?

Section 124 of Perkins IV describes required and permissible uses for funds by states. Section 135 of Perkins IV describes required and permissible uses of funds by local education agencies and postsecondary institutions.

10. Can states provide funding for academic courses as part of an approved local program of study?

No. Although the Perkins IV legislation defines a program of study to include both academic and career and technical education courses, only the career and technical education courses may be funded using Perkins dollars.

11. Can students receive Perkins IV funds directly to attend school and train for a career?

No. Students may not receive Perkins IV funds directly.

12. Where can individuals locate information about career and technical education programs in their state?

Individuals are encouraged to contact the agency that administers the Perkins IV grant in their state. This information is provided at the following Web site:

<http://www.edcountability.net/state/index.cfm>