

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) STAFF NOTE

**Topic:** Perkins V State Plan

**Date:** April 2026

**Action Requested:** Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

**Held In:** Full Board State Schools United We Learn

### **SYNOPSIS OF WHAT YOU WILL BE SHARING:**

Revisions to Kentucky's Perkins V State Plan for the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to take action. Pursuant to KRS 156.852, the KBE is vested with the authority to carry out all purposes of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and the provisions of the Acts of Congress related thereto.

### **COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

The Commissioner recommends approval of the revised Kentucky's Perkins V State Plan.

### **APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:**

KRS 12.020, 156.850, 156.852 and 20 U.S.C. 2302(12)

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### *Existing Policy:*

The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act was first authorized by the federal government in 1984 and reauthorized most recently in 2018 as the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V). Named for Carl D. Perkins (former U.S. Representative from Kentucky), the act aims to increase the quality of technical education within the United States in order to help grow the economy. The new law includes provisions for vertically aligned programs of study between secondary and postsecondary education partners, fosters collaboration with the business community and across state agencies, requires (for the first time) an extensive and comprehensive local needs assessment process, focuses on strengthening the CTE teacher and faculty pipeline, expands the reach and scope of student guidance and counseling and promotes a variety of innovative practices.

Perkins law requires each eligible agency to develop a four-year state plan and submit it for approval to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE). The state plan must address a variety of information related to the plan's development and consultation strategies, the implementation of CTE programs and programs of study, accountability and performance measures, as well as other required federal assurances.

Additionally, Perkins law requires each state to establish and report, by December 31 of each year, on core indicators of performance under Title I (state basic grant), Section 113(b), and Title II (Tech Prep), Section 203(e). States must report data for all students, as well as disaggregated data for the categories of students described in Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and Section 3(29) of the Perkins Act. The federal Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) issued non-regulatory guidance with recommended student definitions and measurement approaches for Section 113(b) core indicators. If a state fails to meet at least 90% of an agreed upon performance level for any performance indicator, it must develop and implement an improvement plan.

*Summary of Issue:*

Recent direction from the United States Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) and the United States Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) provided that Kentucky's Carl D. Perkins federal performance goals must be recalibrated when there is a significant change in the measurement approach.

The Kentucky Perkins Performance Model, as approved by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) in 2024, used the percentage of CTE concentrators that met benchmarks on ACT reading, mathematics, and science to satisfy the Perkins academic attainment requirement. As a result of Kentucky's transition to a new college admissions exam vendor for the 2025-26 school year, OESE advised KDE to transition from ACT to the state's exam of record for Title I. The Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) is currently Kentucky's exam of record for Title I, and the proposed Perkins V plan is revised to reflect KSA as the exam of record.

Per Perkins requirements, the state engaged in a 60-day public comment period associated with the academic attainment performance goal recalibration. The public comment period was from January 16 to March 16, 2026. No additional revisions to the to the performance measures were needed as a result of public comments received.

Also included within the plan is the anticipated 2026-2027 Perkins state budget that must be considered and approved by state boards. State allocations have not yet been released, and the anticipated release date is unknown. Due to the federal deadline of April 30, 2026, to upload the State Plan to the federal portal, we are seeking approval of the preliminary 2026-2027 budget based on the 2025-2026 final allocation per guidance from OCTAE. If revisions to the budget are needed after receiving the final allocation from the federal government, the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) will bring these to the Kentucky Board of Education.

*Budget Impact:*

During Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Kentucky received a total of \$22,018,247 through the Perkins Act.

*Groups Consulted and a Brief Summary of Responses:*

The proposed federal Perkins plan was developed and reviewed by leadership, budget staff and data stewards within the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**Commissioner of Education**

**GOALS/PRIORITIES: Indicate all applicable options.**

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement |

**Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships**

**Legislation**

**Commissioner's Management**