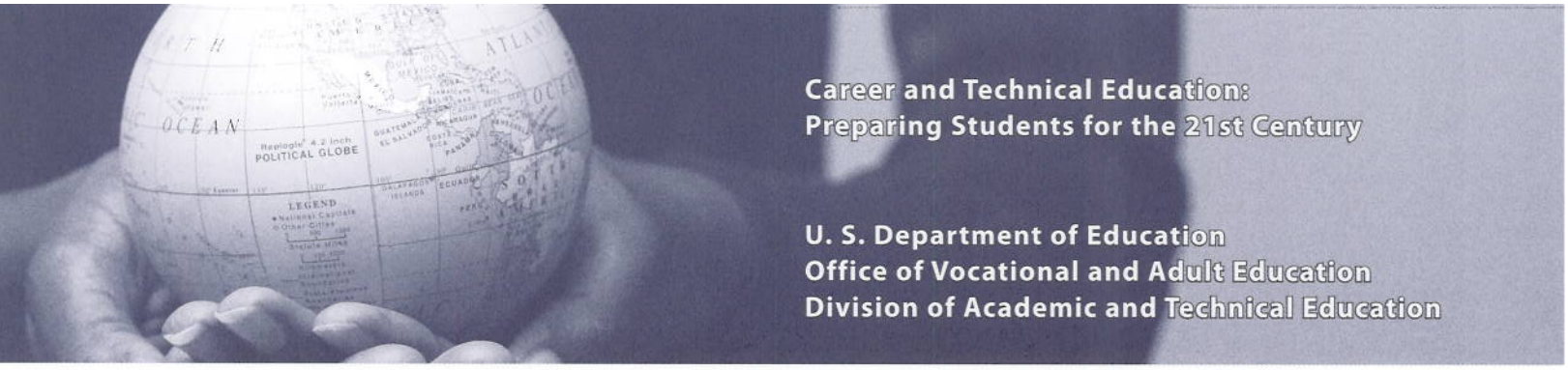

Perkins IV: Title II – Tech Prep Education

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) continues Congress' commitment to improving career and technical education across the nation. Perkins IV is the department's largest formula grant program for secondary and postsecondary career and technical education, providing approximately $1.1 billion dollars annually to states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Palau, and the Virgin Islands (collectively referred to as "states"). States receive Perkins IV funds under Title I (basic state grant) and Title II (tech prep education). Title I is discussed under separate cover.

Title II grants are allotted to states through a formula based on the states' populations in certain age groups and per capita income. Each state distribute its 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 organizations.

Tech prep programs are described in the legislation as a "program of study" that combines a minimum of two years of secondary education (as determined by state law) with a minimum of two years of postsecondary education in a non-duplicative, sequential course of study. Tech prep programs integrate academic, career, and technical education; utilize work-based learning experiences; provide technical preparation in high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand occupations; use applied, contextualized, or integrated instruction; lead to a technical skill proficiency, an industry-recognized credential, certificate, or degree; and lead to placement in high-skill or high-wage employment or further education.

Allowable Uses of Title II Funds by States

- Providing in-service professional development for teachers, faculty, administrators, and counselors;
- Establishing articulation agreements between and among secondary agencies, postsecondary institutions, businesses, and labor organizations, especially with regard to the use of distance learning and educational technology to deliver programs and services;
- Improving career guidance and academic counseling for participating students;
- Developing curriculum that supports effective transitions between secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs; and
- Purchasing tech prep program equipment and instructional materials.

A new provision under Perkins IV provides the option for each state to consolidate all, or a portion, of its Title II funds with its Title I funds and to use those consolidated funds for purposes described under Title I of the legislation. About one-third of all states have opted to do so.

Timeline Perkins IV was reauthorized in August 2006 for a six year period. Title II grants are awarded annually pending the appropriation of Perkins IV funding by Congress.

Contact Edward.Smith@ed.gov

Web Sites
Perkins Collaborative Resource Network – http://www.cte.ed.gov
OVAE – http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/cte/index.html
National Association for Tech Prep Leadership (NATPL) – http://www.natpl.org
National Career Pathways Network – http://www.cord.org/ncpn-index.cfm