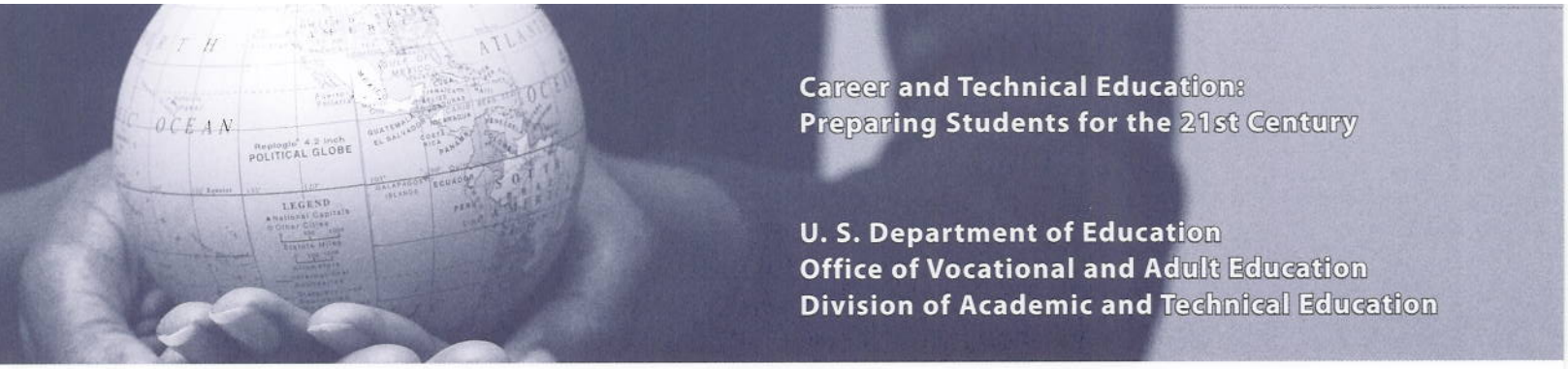

Perkins IV Accountability Requirements

Congress made accountability for results a central focus of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV or the Act), setting out new performance accountability requirements for states and local programs. These requirements were established "to assess the effectiveness of the state in achieving statewide progress in vocational and technical education, and to optimize the return of investment of Federal funds in vocational and technical education activities," pursuant to section 113(a) of Perkins IV.

Under Perkins IV, each state is required to report annually on 13 core indicators of performance (see inset) for all students, as well as disaggregated data on the performance of students in special population categories described in the law, as well as gender, race, and ethnicity.

Perkins IV also requires each state to report on the effectiveness of their tech-prep programs, and, therefore, each state must report data for tech-prep students by each sub-indicator separately, as well as 11 other indicators described in the law.

In accordance with the requirements of Perkins IV, the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) negotiates annual performance levels on each of the core indicators with each state and then holds them accountable for achieving results. Each state submits its performance data in a Consolidated Annual Report (CAR) by December 31 each year and must implement a program improvement plan if it fails to meet at least 90 percent of one or more of its performance levels. A state may face tougher sanctions if it fails to implement an improvement plan and fails to meet a single indicator by the 90 percent threshold for three consecutive years.

Perkins Core Indicators of Performance

Secondary Level:

- Academic attainment in reading/language arts and mathematics
- Technical skill attainment
- Secondary school completion
- Student graduation rates
- Secondary placement
- Nontraditional participation
- Nontraditional completion

Postsecondary Level:

- Technical skill attainment
- Credential, certificate, degree completion
- Student retention or transfer
- Student placement
- Nontraditional participation
- Nontraditional completion

Reports and Tools You Can Use

- Non-regulatory guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education (department) with recommended definitions and measurement approaches for the Perkins IV core indicators of performance – available at http://www.ed.gov/policy/sectech/guid/cte/perkinsiv/studentdef.pdf
- Annual Perkins IV Reports to Congress – available at http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/otherplanrpts.html#perkins
- Web site for public access to Perkins IV state data – available at http://www.edcountability.net/Carreports/adminreports.cfm

OVAE Contact John.Haigh@ed.gov

Web Sites *Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN)* – http://www.cte.ed.gov
OVAE – http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/cte/index.html#acct
National Association for Career and Technical Education Information (NACTEI) – http://www.nactei.org