

During the 2008 General Assembly, legislation will be proposed to update the Colorado Vocational Act to:

1) Address recommendations from the State Auditors Office

2) Fulfill expectations expressed by the federal government through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006

3) Streamline the process of the funding formula

The importance of this legislation is underscored by our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, elective classes that provide students with technical and career skills in relevant and engaging class work that prepares students for college and careers.

Among the many CTE offerings are such important programs as Drafting and Design Technology, Medical-Prep, Early Childhood Education, and Production Agriculture. These CTE programs are often more expensive than general education programs due to the necessity for expert instructors, specialized classroom equipment that frequently requires larger classrooms and lower student/faculty ratios.

Colorado policymakers, administrators and educators have a long history of supporting CTE due to its **relevant, rigorous and reliable coursework** coupled with **hands-on learning**. In the 21st century, Colorado's CTE programs are more vital than ever, providing a strong

culture for learning academic, technical and career skills – everything a well-rounded Colorado student needs to compete in the 21st century global economy.

Currently, more than **90,000 Colorado students are enrolled** in secondary CTE courses with a majority of classes taken during the 11th and 12th grades. Among CTE students surveyed in FY 2005-06, 57 percent continue into higher education with 36 percent entering careers related directly to their CTE training.

The proposed legislation specifically addresses the following:

2006 CVA/Perkins State Audit: Changes to adhere to the audit:

- Recommendation #1 - revise the requirements to reflect current practice;
- Recommendation #5a - revise the data requirements to reflect current practice.

Carl D. Perkins Act: Changes to adhere to the federal Perkins Act – change “vocational” terminology to “Career and Technical Education (CTE),” place an emphasis on seamless transitions of secondary programs into postsecondary/continuing education, and link up data requirements.

CVA Funding Formula: The bill slightly alters the funding process, eliminating the guesswork for the school districts. This will not change the amount the district receives; instead, it will base the districts' allocation on actual CTE costs and CTE student full-time-equivalents (FTE) instead of estimated CTE costs and CTE student FTE thus alleviating corrections in arrears.

In order to maintain the quality of our CTE programs and insure that the Colorado Vocational Act remains vital and relevant, we need your help.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION WITH YOUR VOICE AND VOTE!

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