



From: Linda Bowman, Ph.D., Vice-President for Academic and Student Affairs, CCCS  
To: Career and Technical Education Administrators  
Date: February 13, 2007  
Re: Tech Prep under the New Perkins Act

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The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Improvement Act of 2006 presents challenges and opportunities regarding the use of Title II (Tech Prep) funds. As described in Title II, Section 203 of the 2006 Act, Tech Prep recipients under the new Act would be faced with extensive new data reporting requirements. Based on recommendations from the CTE Strategic Planning Work Group, it was agreed that these new data reporting requirements are too costly for Tech Prep recipients at both the secondary and postsecondary levels.

Section 202 of Title II offers a new opportunity with the Tech Prep funds that makes it possible to distribute the Tech Prep funds to every Colorado Perkins recipient. And, by allowing the State to consolidate the Tech Prep award into the Title I Basic grant, recipients are freed from the new extensive Tech Prep data reporting requirements. Colorado selected this option as did over two-thirds of the other states in the nation. The consequence of this new flexibility is that, in Fiscal Year 2008, it will not be possible for Colorado to fund the second year of FY2007 first-year Tech Prep grants.

Throughout the year, we have been discussing with various constituents, the possibility of discontinuing the Tech Prep funding in FY 2007. We discussed this possibility at the Tech Prep Bidders' Conference on November 4, 2005 and worked closely with the Colorado Tech Prep Advisory Council in the fall preparing for the changes in the Perkins Act. One of the recommendations to CCCS in September 2006 from the Tech Prep Advisory Council was to combine the Tech Prep funds with the basic grant. Although this causes a significant change for current Tech Prep recipients, the onerous requirements for Tech Prep by the Perkins Act leads us to this decision.

Once the Title II funds are rolled into Title I, the accountability and data reporting requirements that apply to Title I will apply to the combined funds. Section 113 under Title I establishes the need for accountability systems to "assess the effectiveness of the State and the eligible recipients of the State in achieving statewide progress in CTE, and to optimize the return of investment of Federal funds in CTE activities." **This Section is designed to direct States to manage the funds, the data, and continuous improvement in areas of rigorous academics, measurable occupational skills, high school graduation, student placement, and student enrollment and completion of non-traditional (gender) career fields.** The Law also expects the State to define measurements of performance, "to the greatest extent possible," to align so that substantially similar information is gathered for other State and Federal programs.

CCCS is increasing data analysis and strengthening partnerships across the State to develop strategies that support Colorado's workforce needs and that move CTE programs into 21<sup>st</sup> Century preparedness. With continued threats to availability of Federal Perkins funds, the State, with your help, must work toward achieving reliable and valid evidence of student learning and success. We thank you for your patience, perseverance and expertise in helping us move forward to making Colorado CTE the best in the nation!