



## Perkins CTE Funding



The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) is the principal source of dedicated federal funding for career and technical education (CTE)—helping to build the capacity of secondary and postsecondary institutions to serve millions of students nationwide through CTE programs that are academically rigorous and aligned to the needs of business and industry. Perkins funding to support CTE provides a strong return on investment, as students involved in CTE programs are more engaged, perform better academically and graduate at higher rates. An educated and highly skilled workforce delivers direct benefits to American employers by strengthening the economy through productivity and innovation. Perkins' foundational support for CTE program improvement ensures that educators can equip students with the academic, technical and employability skills they will need to succeed in the workforce. However, more needs to be done to support our nation's high schools, tech centers, community colleges, employers and CTE students.

Despite the importance of Perkins funding in advancing high-quality CTE programs, congressional appropriations have not kept pace with the growing need. Funding for the Perkins Basic State Grant program is still \$5.4 million below its pre-sequestration level. From FY 2007, which followed the last reauthorization of Perkins, through FY 2016, total Perkins grant funding to states declined by 13 percent—nearly \$170 million less in funding to support CTE.

As Congress considers the reauthorization of Perkins, it is time to reverse this trend of divestment in a critical education and workforce training program by **restoring the Perkins Basic State Grant to its prior level of \$1.3 billion, a 15 percent increase, in FY 2017.** This much needed investment in Perkins could support an additional 1.7 million students by expanding access to CTE programs of study that create a seamless educational pathway, strengthening the integration of academics and CTE content in the classroom, providing career guidance and academic counseling services, ensuring that CTE classrooms have the latest technology and equipment, and providing professional development and technical assistance for CTE educators. It is time to make building our investment in CTE a top priority!

### Why CTE?

CTE students:

- are more engaged in their education
- graduate from high school at higher rates and score higher on academic achievement tests
- gain critical employability skills
- earn industry-recognized credentials
- focus on careers aligned to state and local economic priorities
- **are the backbone of the future U.S. workforce!**

**Make educating and training the nation's future workforce a priority and support increased funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act!**