



CTE Funding Fight Talking Points

FACT:

On April 14, the House and Senate approved a final funding bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. Despite all the advocacy efforts of CTE stakeholders across the country, this bill cuts \$140.2 million from Perkins, including completely eliminating funding for Tech Prep and cutting Basic State Grants by \$37.3 million. This cut will impact funds going out on July 1 for the 2011-2012 school year.

FACT:

On April 19, Secretary Duncan addressed CTE state officials and advocates attending the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) spring meeting. He directly commented about President Obama's decision to reduce Perkins CTE funding in his FY 2012 budget proposal, telling the audience that the reduction in funds was a painful choice that does not reflect the Administration's support for CTE.

WHAT IS CAREER/TECHNICAL EDUCATION?

Career and technical education (CTE) prepares both youth and adults for a wide range of careers and further educational opportunities. These careers may require varying levels of education—including industry-recognized credentials, postsecondary certificates, and two- and four-year degrees.

CTE is offered in middle schools, high schools, area career and technical centers, community and technical colleges, and other postsecondary institutions.

TALKING POINTS:

Use these talking points when communicating with policymakers and the media. Generally speaking, the strongest messages will link CTE funding to improving the economy and providing students the education and skills necessary to be successful in their careers. While deficit reduction plans are crucial to the nation's future, it is important that Congress knows that these cuts to education and job training impact their constituents and their community.

- Cuts to CTE programs, like Perkins Tech Prep will reduce the number of educated, skilled workers at a time when the nation needs to create jobs and rebuild its economy.
- The elimination of the Perkins Tech Prep programs represents a cut of 8 percent to the Perkins Act, one of the only federal programs that helps to build the capacity of high schools and postsecondary institutions to educate students for the careers of the 21st century.

- Career and technical education is engaging students to help them better understand and apply academics, goals that need to be reached if the nation is to graduate students who will be effective in the workplace and keep the United States economically competitive.
- The Tech Prep program specifically is required to have a rigorous curriculum and connects secondary and postsecondary programs to help more students seamlessly transition to postsecondary education and earn postsecondary certificates and degrees, the very goals that Congress and many states are seeking to achieve.
- A cut in Perkins funding will result in severe consequences for students and the nation's economy. Schools will lose professional development, curtail efforts to ensure students have access to the latest technology and equipment, be forced to reduce the integration of academic and technical integration and offer fewer services to students.
- Across the country, unemployment levels are still high, but there are jobs available for individuals with the right skill sets. CTE works to ensure that students have the academic, technical and employability skills necessary for true career readiness—and needs the support of the federal government.
- Cutting important education and training at a time when many adults are trying to recover and reemploy after the economic downturn is unacceptable. The cuts to these programs are the wrong move at the wrong time.
- Perkins funding has remained stagnant for a number of years while demand for career and technical education has increased. Losing funding now would be devastating to CTE programs.
- Community and technical colleges are seeing some of the most significant enrollment increases in years and students are seeking education and training from these institutions due to the value of the education. These institutions are relying on education and labor funds to serve students next year.
- Business and industry report that many applicants come seeking employment without the full set of skills (academic, employability and technical) required for today's jobs. Education and labor programs are the very ones teaching these skills.
- The cuts to education and employment programs come as state budgets are facing significant budget shortfalls. It is unlikely that states will be able to replace the funding, which means effective education and employment strategies will end. This will exacerbate, not improve the economy.

