Perkins V Overview

The Carl D. Perkins Act (Perkins V) is the primary way through which the federal government funds Career and Technical Education (CTE) and influences related state and local education policy.

The objective of the Act is to increase student access to high-quality career and technical programs of study that develop students' academic knowledge, technical skills, and employability skills. States and districts receive funds annually for career and technical education through this program, which began on July 1, 2019 and will be available through June 30, 2025.

The law outlines six required uses local districts must implement with Perkins V funds. Each required use area includes permitted key activities that districts may implement as part of their overall strategy. To receive funds, districts must develop and submit for approval a local application that describes how required uses will be met, which permitted key activities will be implemented, and how such implementation will improve student access to high-quality CTE programs. Local applications must be informed by a comprehensive needs assessment, which is a process outlined in the law and is designed to assist with continual improvements and revisions of local CTE programs. The law requires the local application and comprehensive needs assessment to be developed and conducted in consultation with a diverse body of stakeholders including, but not limited to teachers, administrators, parents, local agencies, and local industry. Once completed and approved, the local application describes districts' CTE goals, incorporation of required uses of funds, key activities, levels of student performance on state and local indicators, and other important information related to the use of Perkins V funds.

As the national leader in career learning, Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is aligned with the objectives of Perkins V and is an effective approach to developing students' academic knowledge, technical skills, and employability skills. As education leaders set their overall vision for career and technical education and reflect that vision in their Perkins V local applications, we think PLTW is a key strategy in meeting the needs of students. The following table shows the connection between five of the six Perkins V required uses of funds, permissible key activities, and PLTW program aspects and cost components. Districts and schools implementing PLTW with Perkins V funds (or seeking to do so) will find this information useful in completing all aspects of the required local application.



Required Use Area*	Permitted Key Activity	PLTW Program Alignment	PLTW Cost Components
Career Exploration and Development	Introductory courses or activities focused on career exploration and career awareness.	PLTW's research-supported learning approach empowers students to discover and explore interests, imagine and design solutions to real-world challenges, and become independent, confident problem solvers.	Participation Fee
Provide career exploration and development activities designed to aid students, including the middle grades, in making informed plans and decisions about future education and career opportunities.	Any activity that advances knowledge of career opportunities and assists students in making informed decisions about future education and employment goals.		Participation Fee
	Providing students with experience in and understanding of all aspects of an industry.		Participation Fee
Professional Development Provide professional development for teachers, faculty, school leaders, administrators, counselors, or paraprofessionals.	Professional development on supporting individualized academic and career and technical education instructional approaches, including integrating academic and career and technical education standards and curricula.	PLTW Core Training helps teachers build skills and confidence around activity-, project-, and problem-based (APB) learning, prepares educators to become facilitators and coaches, empowers them	Professional Development
	Providing teachers, etc., with opportunities to advance knowledge, skills, and understanding of all aspects of an industry, including the latest workplace equipment, technologies, standards, and credentials.	to bring learning to life through their PLTW program, and equips them to teach students academic, technical, and employability skills. 92-percent of PLTW teachers say they are confident to return to their	Professional Development
	Supporting the implementation of strategies to improve student achievement and close gaps in student participation and performance in career and technical education programs.	classrooms and teach their PLTW course after participating in our professional development program. Research demonstrates that PLTW students outperform their peers in school,	Professional Development



	Providing teachers, etc., with opportunities to advance knowledge, skills, and understanding in pedagogical practices.	are better prepared for post-secondary studies, and are more likely to consider careers as scientists, technology experts, engineers, mathematicians, healthcare providers, and researchers compared to their non-PLTW peers.**	Professional Development
Skills Development Provide, within career and technical education, the skills necessary to pursue careers in high-skill, highwage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations.	No additional permitted key activities included in the law. Districts must address the required use area as written.	PLTW provides access to real-world, applied learning experiences that empower students to gain the academic, technical, and employability skills they need to thrive in college, career, and beyond. PLTW pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science provide hands-on learning opportunities from the first day of prekindergarten through senior year.	Participation Fee
Academic Skills Support integration of academic skills into career and technical education programs	Support CTE participants at the secondary school level in meeting standards.	Using PLTW's unique activity-, project-, problem-based (APB) instructional approach, students explore relevant standards while applying and contextualizing crucial science, math, and literacy skills to solve real-world problems. Those compelling problems also help students become better collaborators and thinkers, empower them to step into real-world roles, and adopt a problem-solving mindset. PLTW pathways address national bodies of standards that include Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts, among others.	Participation Fee



Planning and	
Implementation	

Plan and carry out elements that support the implementation of career and technical education programs and programs of study and that result in increasing student achievement of local levels of performance. A curriculum aligned with the requirements for a program of study.

Expanding opportunities for CTE concentrators to participate in accelerated learning programs, including dual credit.

Appropriate equipment, technology, and instructional materials, including machinery, testing equipment, tools and implements, hardware and software, and other new and emerging instructional materials.

Efforts to recruit and retain career and technical education program teachers, etc.

Expanding opportunities for students to participate in distance career and technical education and blended-learning programs.

Supporting the integration of employability skills into career and technical education programs and programs of study.

PLTW PreK-12 curriculum is focused on career pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, and utilizes a unique problem-based approach as its cornerstone of learning. This approach engages and empowers every student with critical, interdisciplinary, transportable employability skills.

Across all grades, the curriculum's activities allow students to apply learning, use equipment and technology, and adopt roles that unlock their potential, that reveal new possibilities, and that reinforce their understanding of the world around them.

Also, PLTW's student opportunities enhance student learning, recognize their accomplishments, and provide additional connections to career. PLTW students have opportunities to earn scholarships and preferred admission at colleges and universities, engage in work-based learning through internships and industry connections, and take advantage of avenues to highlight achievements.

Participation Fee

Participation Fee

Equipment and Supplies

Participation Fee and Professional Development

Participation Fee, Professional Development, and Equipment & Supplies

Participation
Fee,
Professional
Development,
and Equipment
& Supplies



	Supporting programs and activities that increase access, student engagement, and success in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields (including computer science and architecture) for students who are members of groups underrepresented in such fields.		Participation Fee, Professional Development, and Equipment & Supplies
	Supporting the integration of arts and design skills into career and technical education programs and programs of study.		Participation Fee, Professional Development, and Equipment & Supplies
	Other activities to improve career and technical education programs.		Participation Fee, Professional Development, and Equipment & Supplies

This table is based on required and permissible uses as outlined in the federal law, and the final use of funds is subject to any applicable law, regulation, and approved plans at the state or local level.



^{*} All Required uses and Key Activities may be found in 20 USC 2355(b)(1)-(5)

^{**} https://archive.news.iupui.edu/releases/2014/05/project-lead-the-way.shtml

Additional Resources

US Department of Education State Plan Guide

Perkins Collaborative Resource Network

Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE)

Advance CTE

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act - Full Text

