

Getting to Know the State CTE Director Role

The fifth principle in “Putting Learner Success First: A Shared Vision for the Future of CTE” calls on “**all systems to work together.**”¹ Aligning systems is not only good government, but is necessary for achieving the most effective and efficient delivery of services to learners. Because **CTE connects to multiple systems** - including K-12 and postsecondary education, workforce development and economic development - its success is interwoven with that of other programs and systems. This collaboration must put learners at the center to ensure they have access to seamless programs and supports to guide their exploration of careers and acquisition of skills to lead a productive and fulfilling life.

State CTE Directors are often well-positioned to foster this collaboration through their role in overseeing the implementation and administration of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins). Perkins is a federal education program that invests in secondary and postsecondary CTE programs in all 50 states and territories. Perkins is dedicated to increasing learner access to high-quality CTE programs of study. With a focus on systems alignment and program improvement, this law has been critical to ensuring programs meet the ever-changing needs of learners and employers.

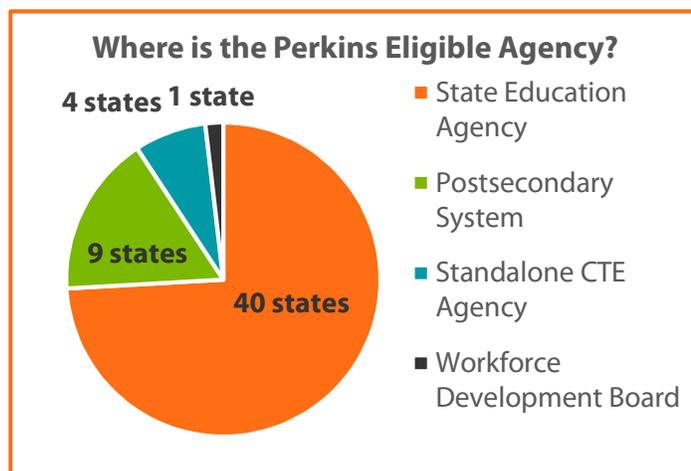
While Perkins requires states to select a single Perkins eligible agency to oversee CTE programs, CTE leadership and state staff may work within multiple agencies. As a result, State Directors have the opportunity to promote alignment across systems and agencies and drive toward a statewide vision for CTE.

Getting to Know the Perkins Eligible Agency

States designate an eligible agency to administer Perkins. As illustrated in the chart to the right, this entity is the state education agency in all but 14 states. Other eligible agencies include:

- Postsecondary systems (CO, HI, IA, KS, LA, MN, MT, WI and Guam)
- Standalone CTE agencies (AR, ID, ND and OK)
- Workforce Development Board (WA)

The eligible agency is required to distribute 85 percent of the state’s allocation to local school districts, public institutions or consortia with state-approved CTE plans and provides programmatic and administrative leadership.

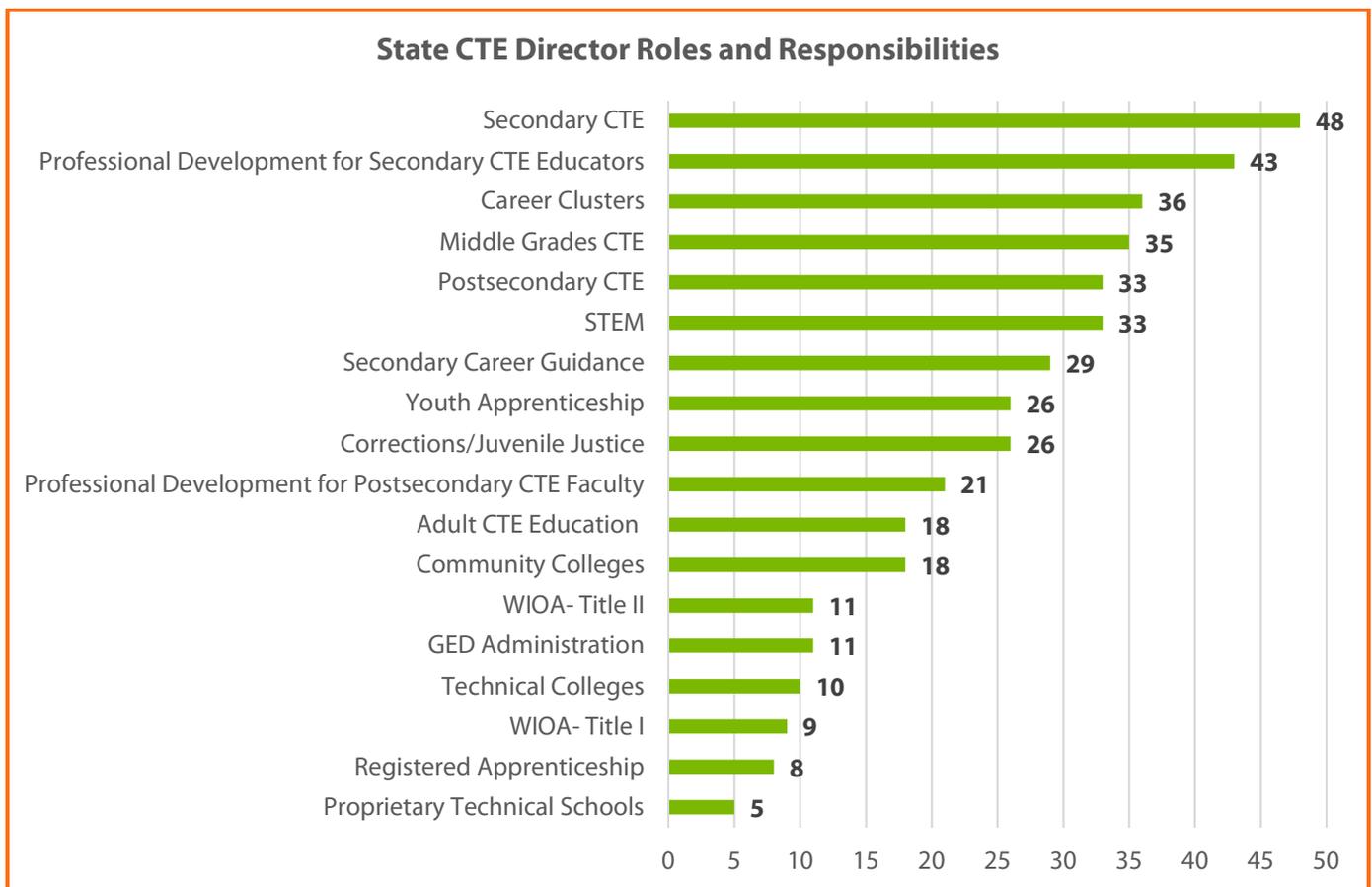


¹ Released in 2016, “Putting Learner Success First: A Shared Vision for the Future of CTE” is a result of nearly 200 leaders from the local to national levels coming together to help map the current landscape of CTE and think strategically about a path forward for the field. Advance CTE and seven co-convening organizations gathered ideas and recommendations to create the new vision. <https://careertech.org/vision>

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Roles and Responsibilities of the State CTE Director

The State Director job is most often a career position, with the exception of five states in which this role is a political appointee.² The following chart highlights the responsibilities that fall under the purview of State Directors, noting the number of State Directors who identified each area as a part of their portfolio. While some State Directors have a common set of responsibilities, overall, there is a large variation in their roles.



Opportunity for Collaboration

As illustrated above, State Directors' portfolios cover a range of responsibilities. These portfolios can be impacted by a variety of factors, including the size of the Perkins eligible agency, the level of the state's investment in CTE and more. While this means that the role differs greatly across states, it also allows the State Directors a variety of opportunities to foster collaboration across different state agencies and initiatives. This collaboration can take many forms, but regardless of the tactic, strong coordination between CTE and other statewide efforts can be the critical driver of progress across systems and toward a statewide vision for CTE.

² Advance CTE periodically conducts surveys of State Directors on a variety of topics, including Perkins implementation, the role of State Directors and more. There were 52 states and territories that responded to this 2017 survey.

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