

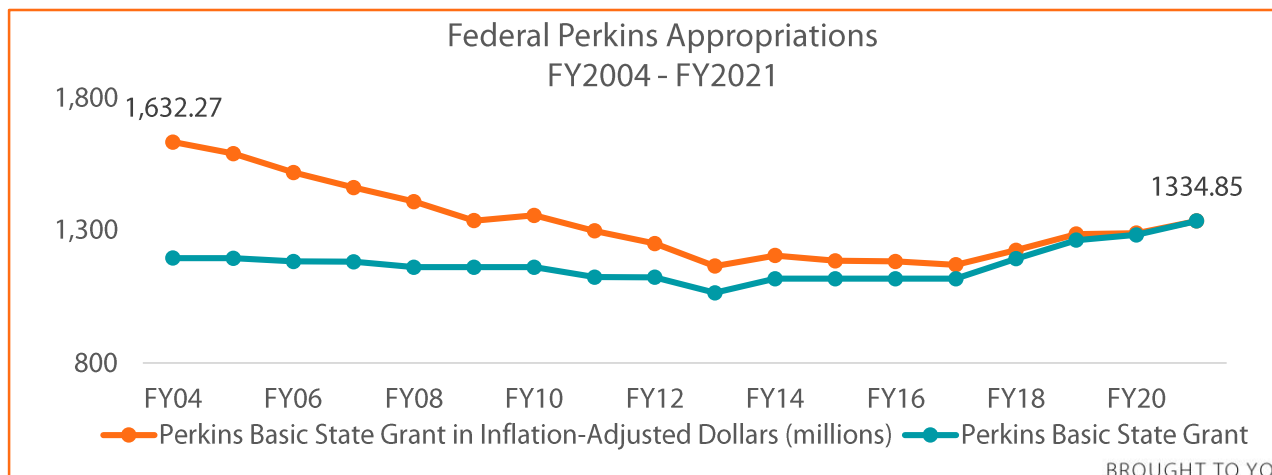
Investing in Career Technical Education: An American Imperative

Career Technical Education (CTE) is a proven strategy to strengthen the U.S. economy. CTE engages students, strengthens the workforce and closes critical skills gaps. While CTE programs are supported by local, state and federal dollars, nearly every community in the U.S. receives funds through the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V or the Perkins Act), directly impacting more than 11 million learners nationwide.¹

CTE programs of study supported by the federal investment in Perkins V provide learners with real-world skills, hands-on opportunities and real options for college and rewarding careers. Despite its value and impact, Perkins V remains a program in desperate need of additional investment. In fact, a 2017 survey of school districts offering CTE found that the top barrier to offering CTE was “funding or high cost of programs.”² Now is the time to support the nation’s CTE system and the 8.8 million secondary learners and over 3 million postsecondary learners it serves and increase this critical investment.³

Now is the Right Time to Invest in CTE

- The Perkins Act is the federal government’s largest investment in CTE, but funding has not kept pace with increasing demand.
- Between Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 and FY2017, the federal investment in the Perkins Act declined by over \$77 million dollars, the equivalent of \$427 million in inflation-adjusted dollars (i.e., 28 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars).
- The federal investment in Perkins was relatively flat between 1991 and 2017, and the program’s **buying power had fallen by approximately \$933 million** in inflation-adjusted dollars— a 45 percent reduction over a quarter century.⁴
- Federal funding in CTE has increased annually since FY2017. However, these increases still do not bring Perkins funding to the level it would be if only keeping pace with inflation.
- Nevertheless, demand for CTE remains high — over 1.3 million additional secondary learners were enrolled in CTE in 2017-2018 compared to 2011-2012.⁵



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

The Investment in CTE is Worth It

CTE strengthens the American economy by reducing high school dropout rates, equipping learners with workforce-relevant skills and expanding a talent pool that is responsive to the needs of employers. High-quality CTE programs have a direct and measurable impact on the economy.

- The graduation rate for learners who take a concentration of CTE courses is about 94 percent, approximately 11 percent higher than the national average.⁶
- The estimated impact of achieving a 90 percent graduation rate nationwide is a \$5.7 billion increase in economic growth and \$664 million in additional federal, state and local taxes.⁷
- A recent study in **Arkansas** found that, "students with greater exposure to CTE are more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in a two-year college, be employed, and earn higher wages."⁸
- High-quality CTE programs can strengthen the talent pipeline by supporting a workforce that is ready to meet the demands of tomorrow's jobs.

An Investment in CTE is an Investment in America's Economy

- According to a report from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, about 65 percent of jobs will require education and training beyond high school by 2020.
- Of the job openings in the economy by that time,
 - 35 percent will require at least a bachelor's degree and
 - 30 percent will require some college or an associate degree.⁹
- These jobs – sometimes called "middle skill" jobs even though they often require highly-advanced technical skills – are often those waiting for individuals at the end of a CTE program of study.

¹ Perkins Collaborative Resource Network. Refers to Program Year 2017-18. Retrieved from <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEParticipant>

² <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018028.pdf>

³ Refers to Program Year 2016-17. Source: <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEParticipant>

⁴ Calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' CPI Inflation Calculator <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>

⁵ Refers to Program Years 2011-2012 and 2017-18. Source: <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEParticipant>

⁶ Refers to Program Year 2017-18. Source: <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/Performance>

⁷ Refers to the Graduating Class of 2015: <http://graduationeffect.org/US-GradEffect-Infographic.pdf>

⁸ <https://edexcellence.net/publications/career-and-technical-education-in-high-school-does-it-improve-student-outcomes>

⁹ https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Recovery2020.ES_Web_.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.manpowergroup.com/talent-shortage-2018>

¹¹ <http://press.careerbuilder.com/2017-04-13-The-Skills-Gap-is-Costing-Companies-Nearly-1-Million-Annually-According-to-New-CareerBuilder-Survey>