

Career Tech Concerns Regarding Workforce Investment Act Infrastructure Funding Proposals

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) are fully supportive of the important workforce development activities of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) system. We have serious concerns, however, regarding proposals to fund One Stop infrastructure and other activities directly from the state allocations of One Stop partner programs:

- The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act supports **both** secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs, with the decision of how to split overall funding between secondary and postsecondary made by each individual state. Administrative funds for the Perkins program are distributed to states with **no distinction** between secondary and postsecondary purposes. Similarly, the decisions as to how administrative funds will be distributed between secondary and postsecondary activities generally are made by the designated state agency responsible for Perkins within each state.
- However, **only postsecondary** Perkins programs offer training services as partners in the One Stop system under the Workforce Investment Act. Therefore, if any arbitrary percentage of funds were taken from the Perkins program overall to provide infrastructure funds for the WIA system, it would adversely affect career and technical education in this nation's high schools, which are already experiencing severe funding difficulties.
- The 1.5% contribution proposed in the WIA draft would mean a loss of nearly **\$17 million** overall that would then come from Perkins' administrative funds, resulting in a **30% cut** to the administrative funds that are available to most states (Perkins administrative funding is capped at 5% of the total grant allocation).
- Reducing administrative funds for Perkins would also likely result in a reduction in effective delivery of education and training services through the One-Stop system, and could affect partner programs' ability to continue providing in-kind contributions to One Stops.
- Cuts to administrative funds would hinder states' ability to carry out existing program responsibilities at both the secondary and postsecondary levels, including developing state and local plans, monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness, providing technical assistance, and assuring compliance with federal laws.
- The Perkins program overall has been cut **more than \$140 million since 2010**, and the ripple effects of an additional cut to admin funding could force already cash-strapped schools, training programs, and community colleges to reduce or eliminate programs that are working well in communities across the country. This could mean hard choices for administrators and teachers, programs lost, and crucial skills-building and educational opportunities diminished or denied for students in our nation.

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