

INSTRUCTIONCareer Technical Education

Federal Grants for Career Technical Education (Perkins)

The District shall submit to the California Department of Education an application for a basic grant of the federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. The application shall address the components specified in 20 USC 2354 and any additional requirements specified in the state plan developed pursuant to 20 USC 2342. (20 USC 2354)

The District shall conduct a needs assessment in accordance with 20 USC 2354, which shall be updated at least once every two years. The needs assessment shall be conducted in consultation with representatives of District career technical education (CTE) programs, postsecondary CTE programs, state or local workforce development boards and businesses, parents/guardians, students, and other specified stakeholders. (20 USC 2354)

To meet the needs identified in the needs assessment, the Superintendent or designee shall develop, coordinate, implement, or improve CTE programs that are of sufficient size, scope, and quality to be effective and that fulfill the following purposes: (20 USC 2355)

1. Provide career exploration and career development activities through an organized, systematic framework designed to aid students, including students in the middle grades, in making informed plans and decisions about future education and career opportunities and programs of study. Such activities shall occur before students enroll and while they are participating in a CTE program, and may include:
 - a. Introductory courses or activities focused on career exploration and career awareness, including non-traditional fields
 - b. Readily available career and labor market information, including information on occupational supply and demand, educational requirements, other information on careers aligned to economic priorities, and employment sectors
 - c. Programs and activities related to the development of student graduation and career plans
 - d. Career guidance and academic counselors who provide information on postsecondary education and career options
 - e. Any other activity that advances knowledge of career opportunities and assists students in making informed decisions about future education and employment goals, including nontraditional fields
 - f. Activities that provide students with strong experience in, and comprehensive understanding of, all aspects of an industry

2. Provide the skills necessary to pursue careers in high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations
3. Integrate academic skills into CTE programs and programs of study to support participating students in meeting state academic standards
4. Provide professional development for teachers, school leaders, administrators, specialized instructional support personnel, guidance counselors, and/or paraprofessionals, which may include the types of activities listed in 20 USC 2355
5. Plan and carry out elements that support the implementation of CTE programs and programs of study and that result in increased student achievement. Such elements may include curriculum aligned with program requirements, sustainable relationships among community stakeholders, opportunities for students to participate in accelerated learning programs, equipment and instructional materials aligned with business and industry needs, and other activities specified in 20 USC 2355.
6. Develop and implement evaluations of the activities funded by the grant

The District's program shall provide activities to prepare special populations for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations that will lead to self-sufficiency. Special populations shall be provided with equal access to CTE programs and shall not be unlawfully discriminated against. Special populations include, but are not limited to, students with disabilities, students from economically disadvantaged families, pregnant and parenting students, out-of-work individuals, English learners, homeless students, foster youth, children of military families, and students preparing for nontraditional fields. Nontraditional fields include occupations or fields of work, including careers in computer science, technology, and other emerging high-skill occupations, for which individuals from one gender constitute less than 25 percent of the individuals employed in each such occupation or field of work. (20 USC 2302, 2354, 2373)

Upon written request from a nonprofit private school within the geographical area served by the District, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with private school representatives in a timely and meaningful manner and may provide for the participation of private school secondary students in the District's programs and activities funded pursuant to 20 USC 2301-2414. To the extent practicable, the Superintendent or designee shall also, upon request, permit participation of CTE teachers, administrators, and other personnel from private schools in the District's inservice and preservice professional development programs funded through such grants. (20 USC 2397)

At a minimum, the District's linked learning program shall include:

1. An integrated core curriculum that meets the eligibility requirements for admission to the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) and is delivered through project-based learning and other engaging instructional strategies that bring real-world context and relevance to the curriculum where broad themes, interest areas, and CTE are emphasized

2. An integrated technical core of a sequence of at least four related courses that may reflect CTE standards-based courses and that provide students with career skills, are aligned to academic principles, and fulfill academic core requirements described in item #1 above to the extent possible
3. A series of work-based learning opportunities that begin with mentoring and job shadowing and evolve into intensive internships, school-based enterprises, or virtual apprenticeships
4. Support services, including supplemental instruction in reading and mathematics, that help students master the advanced academic and technical content that is necessary for success in college and career

Regional Occupational Center/Program

The district shall operate and/or partner with a regional occupational center or program (ROC/P), established pursuant to Education Code 52335.12, which offers CTE courses, linked learning programs, partnership academies, and/or pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs as appropriate.

Occupational course sequences offered by ROC/P shall provide prerequisite courses needed to enter apprenticeship or postsecondary vocational certificate or degree programs, focus on occupations requiring comprehensive skills leading to high entry-level wages and/or the possibility of significant wage increases after a few years on the job, offer as many courses as possible that meet college admission requirements, and lead to attainment of an occupational skill certificate. (Education Code 52302)

Student Organizations

The District may provide support, including supplies, materials, activities, and advisor expenses, to student organizations which engage in activities that are integral to the CTE program and provide for the development of student leadership skills. However, no state or federal funds shall be used to pay students' membership dues, food or lodging expenses, out-of-state travel, or the cost of a social activity or assemblage.

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