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## Highlights of the 2006 Perkins Reauthorization

Late yesterday, conferees filed the conference report detailing the final legislative language authorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (S.250). Here are some key points of the new bill:

- State administration funding is retained at 5% or \$250,000, whichever is greater. State matching requirements still apply.
- "Career and technical education" terminology used throughout the bill.
- The definition of CTE is modified to remove the restriction to preparation for sub-baccalaureate careers while still retaining a focus of Perkins funding on 2 year degree programs at the postsecondary level.
- The definition of eligible agency is the same as current law.
- A single state plan governing both Title I (the basic state grant) and Title II (Tech Prep) is required.
- States will have the opportunity to submit a transition plan for one year (07-08) and then submit a 5-year plan.
- Tech Prep is maintained as a separate authorization, with states having the option of merging the Tech Prep funding stream with that of the basic state grant. If a state chooses to merge funding streams, then the funds previously allocated to Tech Prep would be governed by all of the requirements of Title I – including distribution by the Title I formula, uses of funds, etc.
- Accountability measures build on existing measures but several additional have been added. Also, additional specific measures have been added for Tech Prep.
- While the secondary academic achievement measure aligns to NCLB, it does not necessitate states accepting the AYP levels and their 1S1 performance level.
- While the negotiation of performance levels with local eligible recipients is required, the state level levels are considered to be the starting point. In the state plan, states will develop a process to negotiate with the eligible recipients if they do not choose to accept the state levels.
- The bill includes language that permits the Secretary to sanction states that fail to meet 90% of a performance goal for the same performance indicator 3 years in a row. State sanctions would be taken from the state admin and leadership funding. Comparable language is in place permitting states to sanction eligible recipients.
- Primary authority for the development and approval of career pathways (referred to in the bill as "career and technical programs of study") resides with the state. Eligible recipients are required to minimally implement at least one CTE program of study, including both the secondary and postsecondary components.
- In general, the state and local uses of funds are consistent with current law.
- Maintenance of effort is same as it is in current law.
- Private school personnel are permitted to participate in professional development activities funded under this Act (as is the case in current law). An eligible participant may, upon written request, use Perkins funds to allow private school students to participate in CTE programs.

**Next Steps:** The House is scheduled to vote on the bill later today and the Senate will follow suit next week. A full side-by-side comparison of the new bill to the old one will be distributed as soon as possible. Full text of the bill is currently available at [http://www.rules.house.gov/109\\_2nd/text/s250/s250\\_conf\\_rept.pdf](http://www.rules.house.gov/109_2nd/text/s250/s250_conf_rept.pdf)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Domenic Giandomenico, Director of Government Relations at [Domenic@careertech.org](mailto:Domenic@careertech.org).

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