

Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) Guidance Regarding Perkins Funds and Program Areas

The [Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act](#) was first authorized by the federal government in 1984 and reauthorized in 1998, 2006 and 2018. Named for Carl D. Perkins, who was a Kentucky native from Hindman, the act aims to increase the quality of technical education within the United States in order to help the economy.

The newest law, [Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act \(Perkins V\)](#) provides \$1.2 billion in federal support for career and technical education programs in all 50 states, including support for integrated career pathways program. The law was extended through 2024.

Perkins V requires all budget expenses be linked to the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA). Budget items must meet the definitions of size, scope and quality as outlined in the Kentucky Perkins Plan. CTSOs assist districts with meeting the quality indicator. Please see below.

Quality Definition under Perkins V (Secondary)

- Be of sufficient size, which offer a sequence of four or more earned technical credits;
- Have a post-secondary connection (dual enrollment, dual credit, articulation agreement);
- Have an active advisory panel, Have a certified and appropriately endorsed teacher;
- **Have a co-curricular career and technical student organization (CTSO) that provides students the opportunity to engage in leadership development activities (beginning in the 2021-2022 academic year);** and
- Be supported by current labor market data.

CTSO Definition: A career and technical student organization (CTSO) is a non-profit career-based group that offers co-curricular resources and opportunities for students in CTE pathways to develop knowledge and skills by participating in activities, events and competitions. CTSOs embed communication and leadership skills into their programming.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky values CTSOs as indicated by Kentucky Administrative Regulation, [705 KAR 4:231, Section 9](#) which states, “*Recognized career and technical student organizations shall be an integral part of a career and technical education program and shall be supervised by qualified career and technical education personnel. All students shall be provided an opportunity to participate in leadership development activities.*”

With the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Act in July of 2018, a district may use funds from the Perkins Act for teacher travel expenses and substitute reimbursement expenses related to any CTSO. In order to use Perkins funds, each of the CTSOs must be an integral part of the career

and technical education program and be affiliated at the state and national levels of the organization. Each career and technical education program area must have a sequence of courses that align to at least one (1) career pathway per program area to use Perkins funds to assist with teacher expenses.

CTSOs are not “clubs” to which only a few career and technical students belong. Rather, a CTSO is a powerful instructional tool that works best when integrated into the career and technical education curriculum by a qualified teacher who is committed to the development of the total person. Career and technical educators recognize the importance of providing students with job- and career-related training that complement the job-specific skills needed for entry into a specific field.

CTSOs are extremely effective as “instructional tools” when used properly by trained career and technical educators. CTSO activities are integral to career and technical education when they:

- provide instructional strategies used to develop, improve and expand occupational competencies related to a specific career and technical education program area;
- are an extension of the classroom/laboratory instructional program that enriches and enhances classroom/laboratory learning;
- offer competitive events in a wide range of program areas; and
- present organized activities for students to gain personal and leadership skills making them more employable, preparing them to become; productive citizens, and assisting them in assuming positive roles in the home and community.

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) recognizes the following CTSOs:

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. DECA’s comprehensive learning program integrates classroom instruction, applies learning, connects to business, and promotes competition. DECA prepares the next generation to be academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible, experienced leaders. DECA value’s competence, innovation, integrity and teamwork. It is affiliated with the **Business and Marketing Program Area and Law and Public Safety**.

Educators Rising is perfect for any student who is interested in Education and Training. Educators Rising Kentucky, formerly known as Future Educators of America (FEA), is the student organization for students interested in the field of education-related careers. As the state affiliate, Educators Rising Kentucky and Phi Delta Kappa partner to create a national network that helps students build resources and create connections that can significantly impact educational opportunities through co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Through local chapter or individual membership, Educators Rising Kentucky students have opportunities to participate in projects that assist and recognize educator practices through local, state, and national conferences as well as performance-based competitions. It is affiliated with the **Education and Training Program Area**.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is a CTSO that inspires and prepares students to FBLA's programs focus on Leadership Development, Academic Competitions, Educational Programs, Community Service, and countless Awards & Recognition opportunities for members. Members develop essential soft skills, demonstrate business expertise through high-level competitions, create career portfolios, enhance their knowledge with world-recognized skills certifications, and have access to select college scholarships. It is affiliated with the **Business and Marketing Program Area and Law and Public Safety**.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a CTSO for students who are currently or have been enrolled in Family and Consumer Sciences Education as the organization focuses on the family. It helps youth develop leadership and workplace skills to prepare for both college and careers through peer to peer education, community engagement, and the application of skills learned in Family and Consumer Sciences Education. The mission is to promote personal growth and leadership development. Focusing on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner and community leader, members develop skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation. It is affiliated with the **Family and Consumer Sciences Education Program Area**.

FFA is a CTSO for students enrolled in agricultural education courses. The mission of FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. FFA seeks to develop future leaders for the food, fiber, and natural resources industries by helping students develop leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. FFA members have an opportunity to practice the skills that they have learned and to receive recognition for their accomplishments. It is affiliated with the **Agriculture Program Area**.

HOSA-Future Health Professional is a CTSO that prepares students for careers in the health professions. The mission of HOSA is to empower HOSA-Future Health Professionals to become leaders in the global health community through education, collaboration, and experience. The purpose of the HOSA organization is to develop leadership and technical HOSA skill competencies through a program of motivation, awareness, and recognition, which is an integral part of the **Health Science Education Program Area**.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industries working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce and helps each student excel. SkillsUSA Kentucky empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA Kentucky improves the quality of our nation's future skilled workforce through the development of SkillsUSA Framework skills that include personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. SkillsUSA Kentucky vision is to produce the most highly skilled workforce in the world, providing every member the opportunity for career success. SkillsUSA is affiliated with the **Construction Technology, Computer Science, Law and Public Safety, Media Arts, Transportation and Manufacturing Technology Program Areas**.

Technology Student Association (TSA) is a CTSO that enhances personal development, leadership, and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), whereby members apply and integrate these concepts through co-curricular activities, competitions, and related programs. TSA chapters take the study of STEM beyond the classroom and give students the chance to pursue academic challenges among friends with similar goals and interests. Together, TSA chapter members work on competitive events, learn and apply leadership skills, and may attend conferences at the regional, state, and national levels. Members learn through exciting competitive events, leadership opportunities and much more. The diversity of activities makes TSA a positive experience for every student. TSA is affiliated with **Engineering Technology Education, Computer Science, Aviation and Media Arts Program Areas.**

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