Kentucky Perkins V State Plan

Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act
INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Now more than ever, the state of Kentucky is becoming a state known for its emphasis on workforce and economic development. Efforts to seamlessly align education and workforce priorities are a focus at the local, regional and state levels. Driving this work are many strategic priorities and partnerships.

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

The Kentucky Department of Education is based in Frankfort, Kentucky and includes an organization structure of seven (7) offices. The KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition provides leadership, support and service to all 172 of Kentucky’s K-12 public school districts in the areas of secondary career and technical education, dual and articulated credit, Advanced Placement coursework (AP), college and career advising, Individual Learning Plans (ILPs), Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), academic and CTE integration projects, and occupation-based CTE teacher licensure and professional learning. The office also governs and manages 53 state-operated regional Area Technology Centers (ATCs) and serves as the fiscal agent for Perkins accountability. Many aspects of data collection for the K-12 accountability system are also the responsibility of this office.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and Regional Universities

The KCTCS is a system of 16 Colleges with over 70 locations across the Commonwealth and online providing certificates, diplomas, and Associate degrees leading directly to careers in the workforce or to transfer to a four-year institution. Colleges also provide adult education leading to the GED, dual credit offerings in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education, apprenticeships, credit and non-credit corporate training for incumbent workers, and employability training for those wishing to enter the workforce. While the Colleges are individually accredited, they report to the President of KCTCS. There is one governing Board (the KCTCS Board of Regents) with College Advisory Boards of Directors. KCTCS Colleges and System Office staff work with local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs); the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB); and the Cabinets for Education and Workforce Development, Economic Development, Health and Family Services, and Public Safety to provide access to higher and continuing education.

Kentucky also has four (4) regional universities that are engaged in Perkins implementation. Those institutions are Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Murray State University and Western Kentucky University. These eligible agencies facilitate curriculum projects, professional learning opportunities and other special projects, as well as provide support in seamless pathway development for many of the CTE program areas.

Seamless Pathways and Programs of Study

While middle schoolers plan their desired career opportunities, KDE and KCTCS partner on pathways that include high school and dual credit opportunities leading directly to a career, apprenticeship, or transfer to a two-year college or four-year university. Currently, 23 career and
technical education pathways are complete in the state’s most in-demand areas; these will grow in number as staff and curriculum faculty develop additional guided pathways and advising strategies.

Dual credit opportunities (classes providing both high school and college credit) provide great value to high school students by offering access to college-level coursework at reduced tuition costs. KDE and KCTCS partner to ensure students “Make Every Credit Count”. Dual credit opportunities are embedded into the seamless career and technical education pathways for students to access as they meet assessment requirements. For students desiring transfer to a university, a general education pathway with 21 course options provided through the 16 Colleges was implemented. This pathway is being extended to university partners to ensure every credit counts for every high school student. A joint Dual Credit Advisory Board between KDE and KCTCS helps to ensure communication and solve problems.

**Credentials of Value**

As high school and college students seek internships, apprenticeships, and employment, employers must understand the competencies students have acquired on their career and technical education pathways. KCTCS colleges are beginning the development of competency-based transcripts or student portfolios to add information to the student’s record beyond course grades, earned credentials, and certifications.

Kentucky has a rigid, legislatively-mandated process for validating state and nationally-recognized industry certifications at the secondary level, which involves the employer community at-large, local WIBs and final approval by the KWIB. The list is reviewed on an annual basis and amended, as needed, based on the changing needs of the state’s workforce.

In an effort to continue refinement of these existing practices, Kentucky recently developed a cross-agency team of representatives from KDE, KCTCS, the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and KYstats (the state’s longitudinal database system) to engage in a national initiative known as the Credentials of Value Institute (COVI). This cross-state initiative, sponsored by the Lumina Foundation, involves six total states and is focused on building replicable strategies that help to identify in-demand credentials, incentive attainment of such credentials and ensure reliable data collection and reporting mechanisms for credential attainment. The state expects that the outcomes of this project may change how it approaches its work in this area, moving forward.

**The Next Four Years… A Path Forward**

As the state forges ahead over the next four years, Kentucky will remain focused on the continuous improvement of its CTE system at both the secondary and postsecondary levels. The state will continue its efforts to address inequities, incentivize local innovation, and expand greater access and opportunity for student learners to engage in high-quality CTE programming.

Through sustained work, such as the national New Skills for Youth (NSFY) initiative, Kentucky will build upon prior work to expand regional partnerships that are deeply rooted in employer
engagement and industry leadership, labor market alignment strategies and seamless career pathways that encompass grades 9-16, including youth and registered apprenticeship opportunities. Strategic emphasis will be placed on seeking solutions to work-based learning barriers at all levels of learning. Kentucky will also continue its commitment to refining processes and protocols for validating the state’s most in-demand industry certifications and credentials, ensuring an assessment and accountability system that is fully aligned to the needs of the state’s workforce.
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTIONS

(1) A summary of State-supported workforce development activities (including education and training) in the State, including the degree to which the State's career and technical education programs and programs of study are aligned with and address the education and skill needs of the employers in the State identified by the State board;

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS—a system of 16 Community and Technical Colleges across the Commonwealth) partner to ensure secondary and postsecondary programs are aligned and meet the state’s five priority sectors set by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB). The five sectors include: Advanced Manufacturing; Healthcare and Social Assistance; Business and IT Services; Construction and Trades; and Transportation, Distribution and Logistics. Both providers offer technical programs of study that fall into each of the five sectors. KCTCS offers 68 programs of study within the five priority sectors. KDE offers 150 career programs of study that are aligned with the five state industry sectors or the state’s top occupations.

Both KDE and KCTCS offer programs of study that meet regional and community needs for other supporting occupations, including Early Childhood Education, Public Safety, and other programs of study leading to direct employment that is based on regional demand. Career and technical programs include a focus on employability skills.

The KDE invests resources to develop, maintain and continually improve career pathways. This is necessary because local requests have statewide impact, requiring ongoing support.

New programs of study for secondary education are created and adopted based upon:
- specialized needs of business and industry;
- innovative concepts that support industry and economic development opportunities for Kentucky; and
- Labor market information (LMI).

New career pathway requests at the secondary level must be supported by the following information from the districts/schools and submitted to KDE:
- scope of proposed pathway;
- Labor market information (LMI); and
- local, regional and/or state employer demand.

In developing new programs, KCTCS colleges rely on input from Area Development Districts, Kentucky Career Centers, the KWIB, regional economic development organizations, local Chambers of Commerce, technical program advisory boards, and the college’s Boards of Directors. Program needs are validated through labor market information and student demand. Programs of study must meet guidelines set forth by Kentucky’s higher education coordinating body, the Council on Postsecondary Education.
(CPE). Colleges must document employer support for the new program and must show employer participation in program development.

The KDE and the KCTCS work together to ensure a path from secondary to postsecondary education leading to certificates, diplomas, and degrees. KCTCS colleges also provide a variety of pathways for adult students to attain education leading to better career opportunities.

High school students, their parents, recent high school graduates, and adults returning to college must recognize that there is an opportunity to enter college, complete a credential that is less than a four-year degree, and quickly enter the workforce into good-paying jobs.

In partnership with KDE, KCTCS colleges provide multiple ways for high school students to enter their chosen career pathway. Students in high school may earn college credit in several ways. Students may earn dual credit, where each class provides credit towards both a college credential and high school graduation.

KDE and KCTCS collaborate to provide high school students with seamless dual credit model pathways for the most in-demand technical programs by utilizing the state’s two dual credit scholarships, Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship (WRDCS) and Dual Credit Scholarship (DCS). All Kentucky high school students are eligible to receive two approved dual credit courses per year of career and technical education offerings within a career pathway approved by KDE per academic year for the Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship. Each year, high school juniors and seniors are also eligible for a total of two approved dual credit courses within a program of study approved by KDE using the Kentucky Dual Credit Scholarship. Templates have been developed to show students, parents and high school counselors the pathways, and a guide will be developed to assist local school districts in partnering with local community and technical colleges to develop programs of study to meet local needs.

Early College is offered at some KCTCS colleges. High school juniors and seniors may enroll in the Early College, which is embedded within the college. The students enter as dual credit high school juniors and take a full schedule of college coursework across their junior and senior high school years, graduating with an Associate degree a priori to graduating with their high school diploma in either a transfer pathway leading to the Bachelor’s degree or in a technical program leading directly to a career.

An example of Early College: beginning in 2019-2020, KCTCS’s Hazard Community and Technical College partnered with Perry County Public Schools to begin “K-TECH”, a dual credit high school which provides a technical program of study beginning in the 9th grade and continuing with an apprenticeship so the student ends the program with a two-year degree and two years of apprenticeship with an employer in a health career or computer science. This model is being considered at other KCTCS colleges.
KCTCS colleges provide several entry and exit points to help the recent high school graduate or adult student achieve their desired career success. Students receive career counseling before and during their time in college to help choose their intended career destination. KCTCS colleges offer many student support services, including access to various forms of financial aid and scholarships, Veteran services, support for those with disabilities, academic support, and other wrap-around services, including success coaching.

In order to help adult students overcome financial challenges, and to incentivize skills attainment in target sectors seeking a trained workforce, Kentucky has made available the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (WRKS) for adult students. Students are provided scholarships for up to 60 credit hours (an Associate’s degree or certificates earned along the way) in any one of five sectors: Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare and Social Assistance, Business and IT, Construction and Trades, and Transportation, Logistics and Transportation.

Depending on the student, there are various ways to access a college technical degree:

A student may enroll in college the summer or fall term after high school graduation and may bring some college credit with them. The student then completes an Associate in Applied Science degree in a technical field of study and then goes to work in that field. The student may then choose later to take additional courses to progress to advance in their career or earn a higher degree.

The recent high school graduate or adult student may earn a short-term certificate (which may or may not include a nationally recognized certification) and leave to enter the workforce. The student may then choose to return to college to earn additional, stackable certificates that lead to an Associate in Applied Science degree. Students may exit the pathway after each credential earned.

The student may enter a program of study that includes a Registered Apprenticeship through an organized labor-offered program, through an employer-provided or sponsored program, or with an employer through an intermediary. The program includes appropriate education and training hours, as well as, on the job training which may be provided through the organized labor, secondary and postsecondary institutions, or other employers.

There are several on-ramps to Registered Apprenticeships that include KDE’s Statewide Youth Apprenticeship program called TRACK (Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky), which partners with the Kentucky Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development, as well as the U.S. Department of Labor. TRACK utilizes the current high school career and technical infrastructure at no cost and creates a seamless career pathway for students into postsecondary Registered Apprenticeship opportunities. TRACK creates a pipeline of students with a good foundation and an interest into occupations which are based on local business and industry needs. The TRACK program results in career pathways.
that lead to gainful employment and reinforces employability skills. Nationally, 94% of apprentices continue employment after completing a Registered Apprenticeship Program. Beginning fall 2019, Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), can be used for Registered Apprenticeship Programs, in addition to two- and four-year institutions.

Nationally, WIOA supports Registered Apprenticeship as a workforce strategy and promotes an increase use of work-based learning with a stronger emphasis on business services. All Registered Apprenticeship sponsors are qualified to be placed on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). This allows business and industry to use WIOA funds to cover related technical instruction and other apprenticeship cost for Registered Apprenticeship sponsors. Kentucky has several local workforce investment boards (WIB) and business service teams that promote and encourage the Registered Apprenticeship model.

Alternatively, the student may participate in an industry-recognized apprenticeship model such as the Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (KY FAME) “work-and-learn” program. A KY FAME student attends a KCTCS College FAME program at a sponsoring employer. A KY FAME student earns wage from their sponsor company; the employer pays one-half of program tuition. The student earns between 16 and 18 college credits per semester. A KY FAME student graduates with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Industrial Maintenance Technology: Advanced Manufacturing Technology after five consecutive semesters.

Post-traditional adult students (often categorized as 25 and older) may not have earned a high school diploma or equivalency such as the GED. These students are provided an additional way to access postsecondary education. While earning their GED, students may also be co-enrolled in a short-term certificate programs of study at a KCTCS College in the career fields supported by the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (Advanced Manufacturing, Allied Health, Business and IT, Construction and Trades, and Logistics and Transportation). This program is called GED Plus. Skills U, the Adult Education program provider supported through the Kentucky Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development, employs a Career Navigator who provides the student with additional academic assistance in the KCTCS college coursework. The partner College provides a Success Coach to assist with college admissions and other processes. Once the student completes the GED and short-term certificate, they may go directly to work or enroll in college-level coursework at a KCTCS college.

KCTCS also guides students through a process to receive academic credit toward certificates and degrees by offering Credit for Prior Learning (CfPL). Students who have acquired and mastered skills through experiences such as (but not limited to) on-the-job training, military service, or business ownership, can apply to receive credit for the competencies they have acquired, and have that credit applied to their academic pathway. CfPL initiatives provide incentive for adult
students to enter postsecondary programs and reduce the overall time-to-degree associated with college completion. Credit may be awarded through special examinations or a portfolio process.

(2) **The State's strategic vision and set of goals for preparing an educated and skilled workforce (including special populations) and for meeting the skilled workforce needs of employers, including in existing and emerging in-demand industry sectors and occupations as identified by the State, and how the State's career and technical education programs will help to meet these goals;**

The vision and goals of the KDE, the KCTCS and the KWIB align the education systems to the needs of workforce to increase individuals’ employability and workforce skills, including those of special populations.

The KDE’s vision is that each and every student is empowered and equipped to pursue a successful future. The mission for the department is to partner with districts, schools, families, students, business and industry and communities to provide leadership and support to ensure success for each and every student. The KDE’s Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition goals are to increase acceleration opportunities for all students, including career pathways, dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), industry certifications, and registered apprenticeship.

The mission of the KCTCS is to enhance the quality of life and the employability of the citizens of the Commonwealth by serving as the primary provider of college and workforce readiness, transfer education, and workforce education and training. KCTCS ensures that mission by providing academic and student support for all students, including those from special populations.

The mission of the KWIB is “to be a leader and catalyst in creating a comprehensive, customer-driven workforce development system that meets the changing needs of job seekers, incumbent workers and employers.” Through data analysis, policy recommendations, and dialogue at the local, state, and regional levels, KWIB members serve as stewards of workforce development throughout the Commonwealth.

The KWIB goals are to engage employers in increasing a diversified workforce, encourage an alignment within P12, adult, and post-secondary education, and increase workforce participation by removing barriers for Kentuckians.

Post-secondary institution goals include increasing access and success for all students, particularly among traditionally underserved populations; developing clear pathways through all levels of postsecondary education with an emphasis on experiential learning that lead to successful employment outcomes for graduates; and aligning programs and curricula with the needs of employers to enhance the employability, job placement, and career development of graduates.
As partners, the statewide vision for KDE and KCTCS CTE is to provide educational opportunities for all populations that lead to fulfilling and rewarding careers and that engage employers in the development and deployment of those education pathways.

Kentucky’s career and technical education programs help meet the state's strategic vision and set of goals for preparing an educated and skilled workforce (including special populations) and for meeting the skilled workforce needs of employers, including in existing and emerging in-demand industry sectors and occupations in a variety of ways. KDE and KCTCS work together to create pathways leading to employment in existing and emerging in-demand industry sectors and occupations as identified by the KWIB and the Kentucky Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development. As mentioned previously, both providers offer technical programs of study that fall into each of the five priority sectors.

Programs of study offered to meet the strategic vision and set of goals for preparing an educated and skilled workforce (including special populations), and for meeting the skilled workforce needs of employers include; career and technical education coursework in pathways leading to credentials, dual credit coursework, pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships, experiential learning opportunities, capstone coursework, assessments towards licensures, and KWIB-approved (and employer-demanded) certifications including nationally recognized credentials. Apprenticeships may also include those offered through organized labor-offered programs and/or employers, and may be supported by KCTCS coursework.

(3) a strategy for any joint planning, alignment, coordination, and leveraging of funds

i. between the State's career and technical education programs and programs of study with the State’s workforce development system, to achieve the strategic vision and goals described in paragraph (2), including the core programs defined in section (3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102) and the elements related to system alignment under section 102(b)(2)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3112 (b) (2))

The KWIB has two sub-committees: 1.) Employer Engagement; and 2.) Education Attainment and Completion. Both committees work with education agencies to jointly plan, align, and coordinate the leveraging of funds between Kentucky’s CTE programs and programs of study with the State’s workforce development system. Representatives from KDE and KCTCS attend these meetings to better understand KWIB initiatives. The KWIB provides support, such as certifying industry certifications for secondary providers to ensure alignment between credentials earned by high school graduates and those required by employers. These credentials are also considered by KCTCS colleges as they develop new and review existing technical programs. The KWIB also provides guidance and employer involvement in the implementation of statewide Perkins Leadership funds.
KDE and KCTCS partner with the KWIB and with local workforce investment boards (WIBs) and area development districts (ADDs) in planning efforts to ensure that career and technical programs offered are meeting the needs of business and industry in the region. In return, WIBs may focus scholarship dollars to help meet student needs and provide assistance through out-of-school youth funds.

The most significant changes in the state to meet state strategic goals, will be made through the comprehensive needs assessment. The development of stronger regional partnerships will change the view of education across the Commonwealth. Districts, Area Technology Centers (ATCs) and postsecondary institutions will align programs of study to the needs of the area. These partnerships have the potential to identify gaps in programming that are aligned to high-demand occupations, as well as duplication of programming that may lead to oversaturation of the labor market. These partnerships also help ensure appropriate leveraging of state funds towards various education initiatives.

To provide access to postsecondary education for secondary students within career pathways, these goals are partially supported by legislatively-designated funds through Dual Credit Scholarship (DCS) and Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (WRKS) programs. The DCS was created under the Kentucky Revised Statute 164.786 and provides high school juniors and seniors who are ready for college-level coursework financial access to the dual credit program. The WRKS ensures all Kentuckians, who have not yet earned a postsecondary degree, have affordable access to an industry-recognized certificate, diploma, or associate of applied science degree. The WRKS was created under Kentucky Revised Statutes 164.740-164.7891. It is available to high school students in grades 9-12 for dual credit in any technical education course within a career pathway approved by KDE and for adult college students in a program that leads to an industry-recognized certificate, diploma, or associate of applied science degree in one of Kentucky’s top five high-demand workforce sectors. Both scholarships promote industry certification opportunities and align programs to increase Kentuckian’s knowledge for successful completion of assessments for industry certifications.

\[\text{ii. for programs carried out under this title with other Federal programs, which may include programs funded under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Higher Education Act of 1965;}\]

The KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition is working with the agency’s Title IV team to collaborate on professional development opportunities for administrators and school counselors that provide information on a well-rounded education for students. Shared information, workshops and trainings have included CTE programs of study, dual credit, and persistence to graduation strategies. KDE is also partnering with staff that represent the title programs in ESSA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Perkins to conduct consolidated risk-based monitoring of schools and districts. The on-site monitoring visits demonstrate to the districts how such programs can work together to provide alignment and coordination of funds and goals.
(4) A description of the career and technical education programs or programs of study that will be supported, developed, or improved at the State level, including descriptions of

(A) the programs of study to be developed at the State level and made available for adoption by eligible recipients;

The KWIB and local WIB’s determine sectors of need through their strategic planning processes. Schools and colleges utilize LMI data to determine new programs of study and continuation of current programs. Stackable credentials within programs are developed at both the secondary and postsecondary level.

During the transition year, the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition (OCTEST) worked with the KCTCS to create 23 model pathways for the most in-demand technical programs across the state. These models are the preferred course sequence for high school students to allow seamless entry into various KCTCS Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees upon high school graduation; however, colleges and school districts may develop alternative models based on local needs and the availability to teach a course(s) for dual credit.

Kentucky’s programs of study include a non-duplicative series of courses that span secondary and postsecondary, have multiple entry and exit points, and culminate in a diploma, credential and/or degree. For secondary students, the programs of study will include work-based learning and dual credit opportunities that lead to industry certifications and ultimately to high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand employment.

While the KDE and the KCTCS work together to ensure a path from secondary to postsecondary education leading to certificates, diplomas, and degrees, KCTCS colleges also provide a variety of pathways for adult students to attain postsecondary education, leading to better career opportunities. KCTCS also works with the Department of Labor Job Corps Centers to provide opportunities for Job Corps students to earn certificates, diplomas, and degrees.

The recent high school graduate or adult student may earn a short-term certificate (which may or may not include a nationally recognized certification) and leaves to enter the workforce. The student may then choose to return to college to earn additional, stackable certificates that lead to the Associate in Applied Science degree. Students may exit the pathway after each credential earned.

The student may enter a program of study that includes a Registered Apprenticeship through an organized labor-offered program, through an employer-provided or sponsored program, or with an employer through an intermediary. The program includes appropriate education and training hours as well as on the job training which may be provided through the organized labor, secondary and postsecondary institutions, or other employers.
There are several on-ramps to Registered Apprenticeships that include KDE’s Statewide Youth Apprenticeship program called TRACK (Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky), which partners with the Kentucky Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development and the U.S. Department of Labor. TRACK utilizes the current high school career and technical infrastructure at no cost and creates a seamless career pathway for students into postsecondary Registered Apprenticeship opportunities. TRACK creates a pipeline of students with a good foundation and an interest into occupations which are based on local business and industry needs. The TRACK program results in career pathways that lead to gainful employment and reinforces employability skills. Nationally, 94% of apprentices continue employment after completing a Registered Apprenticeship Program. Beginning fall 2019, Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), can be used for Registered Apprenticeship Programs, in addition to two- and four-year institutions.

Nationally, WIOA supports Registered Apprenticeship as a workforce strategy and promotes an increase use of work-based learning with a stronger emphasis on business services. All Registered Apprenticeship sponsors are qualified to be placed on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). This allows business and industry to use WIOA funds to cover related technical instruction and other apprenticeship cost for Registered Apprenticeship sponsors. Kentucky has several local workforce innovative boards (WIB) and business service teams that promote and encourage the Registered Apprenticeship model.

Alternatively, the student may participate in an industry-recognized apprenticeship model such as the Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (KY FAME) “work-and-learn” program. A KY FAME student attends a KCTCS College FAME program at a sponsoring employer. A KY FAME student earns wages from their sponsor company; the employer pays one-half of program tuition. A KY FAME student graduates with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Industrial Maintenance Technology: Advanced Manufacturing Technology after five consecutive semesters.

Post-traditional adult students (often categorized as 25 and older) may not have earned a high school diploma or equivalency such as the GED. These students are provided an additional way to access postsecondary education. While earning their GED, students may also be co-enrolled in a short-term certificate program of study at a KCTCS College in a career field supported by the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (Advanced Manufacturing, Allied Health, Business and IT, Construction and Trades, and Logistics and Transportation). This program is called GED Plus. Skills U, the Adult Education program provider supported through the Kentucky Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development, employs a Career Navigator who provides the student with additional academic assistance in the KCTCS college coursework. The partner College provides a Success Coach to assist with college admissions and other processes. Once the student completes the GED and short-term certificate, they may go directly to work or enroll in college-level coursework at a KCTCS college.
KCTCS also guides students through a process to receive academic credit toward certificates and degrees by offering Credit for Prior Learning (CfPL). Students who have acquired and mastered skills through experiences such as (but not limited to) on-the-job training, military service, or business ownership, can apply to receive credit for the competencies they have acquired, and have that credit applied to their academic pathway. CfPL initiatives provides incentive for adult students to enter postsecondary programs and reduce the overall time-to-degree associated with college completion. Credit may be awarded through special examinations or a portfolio process.

(B) the process and criteria to be used for approving locally developed programs of study or career pathways, including how such programs address State workforce development and education needs and the criteria to assess the extent to which the local application under section 132 will:

The KDE invests resources to develop, maintain and continually improve career pathways. This is necessary, because local requests have statewide impact, requiring on-going support.

New programs of study for secondary education are created and adopted based upon:
- specialized needs of business and industry;
- innovative concepts that support industry and economic development opportunities for Kentucky; and
- Labor market information (LMI).

New programs of study requests at the secondary level must be supported by the following information from the districts/schools and submitted to KDE:
- scope of proposed pathway;
- Labor market information (LMI); and
- Local, regional and/or state employer demand.

The process for these requests will involve the following stages:

Stage 1 - Research
- New programs of study requests received from local school districts, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board, business and industry, etc.
- Conduct needs assessment based on regional and state LMI
- Obtain feedback/support from business and industry to determine needs for specific occupations (cf. SOC codes)

Stage 2 - Approval
- Identification of pathway name, hierarchy and CIP code based on National Center for Education Statistics

Stage 3 – Business and Education Alignment Taskforce (BEAT)
• Identification or development of pathway standards
• Discuss potential or existing dual and/or articulated credit opportunities

Stage 4 – Curriculum Writing Team
• Course content development and alignment to standards
• Identification of work-based learning opportunities
• Link to career and technical student organization opportunities
• Identify facilities and equipment needs

Stage 5 – Pilot Preparation
• Develop and provide related training and professional development materials for pathway implementation

Stage 6 – Communication and Launch
• Publish programs of study
• Communicate program of study pilot

Stage 7 – Pilot Program of Study
• Pilot initial pathway courses prior to full implementation

Stage 8 – Full Implementation
• Assessment of preparatory students with CTE End of Program Assessment or KWIB Approved Industry Certification
• On-going evaluation and refinement of program of study

Local secondary applicants are required to provide answers to the following questions:

• Briefly explain why this program of study should be created and is not met by existing program of study.
• Identify which of the sixteen (16) career clusters the new program of study supports.
• What skill sets and credentials will students develop by completing this program of study?
• What job duties will students be able to perform as a result of completing this program of study?
• What job/career titles are related to this program of study?

Each created program of study is required to have local labor market information and economic needs assessments, as well as letters of support from regional employers outlining the need for such a pathway in the area. The request will also require information from the regional career centers and the district office for Economic Development. The program of study must lead to an approved industry certification or an end-of-program assessment that leads to articulated postsecondary credit.
Both KDE and KCTCS have curriculum experts/consultants that coordinate the various curriculum pathways to ensure consistency across school districts and community colleges. These consultants also work together to develop CTE pathways or programs of study. The 23 state approved programs of study develop a sequence of ten (10) courses to maximize the state’s Work Ready Kentucky Dual Credit scholarship and the Dual Credit scholarship for high school students. Most pathways will generate at least one entry-level certificate after four (4) courses and provides seamless transition from high school to postsecondary.

Developing new programs of study at the postsecondary level requires each of the colleges to go through a program approval process. Institutions seeking approval to offer instruction must demonstrate that institutional and program standards have been met and the program meets workforce needs. Programs must also note the inclusion of employability skills within the curriculum. For KCTCS, programs are approved by the Board of Regents and require approval by its accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

In developing new programs, KCTCS colleges rely on input from Area Development Districts, Kentucky Career Centers, the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board, regional economic development organizations, local Chambers of Commerce, college program advisory boards, and College Boards of Directors. Additionally, information from the Perkins V Needs Assessment process will help inform development and retention of technical programs.

Academic leadership uses LMI data and other data sources to determine and validate current and projected needs. Needs are also validated through student demand. Programs of study must meet guidelines set forth by Kentucky’s higher education coordinating body, the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). Colleges must document employer support for the new program and must show employer participation in program development.

Programs of study are reviewed regularly by statewide KCTCS curriculum committees led by technical program coordinators and CTE faculty and local college program advisory committees with industry representation to ensure continued need. Programs no longer offering graduates employment upon completion or no longer needed by industry, are removed from the program inventory.

The Regional Universities also must go through a program approval process. Student demand statistics and faculty capacity justifications must be provided. An evaluation of costs must be conducted. Before the program moves forward, the other state institutions have the opportunity to challenge the program as duplicative. Once the review is completed, the path forward is through the university academic approval process and final approval from the CPE.
Both KDE and KCTCS make programs available to special populations. KCTCS colleges offer disability support services; access to mental health counseling; Veterans services; coordination with social services agencies for housing, childcare and transportation; special scholarships for students from foster care; and other services supporting special populations. In partnership with the state’s Vocational Rehabilitation services, each college has a Pre-Employment and Transitions Specialist, who work with high school students and adults with disabilities to coordinate access to education and employment.

(i) promote continuous improvement in academic achievement and technical skill attainment;

Eligible recipients for Perkins funds will develop a local application based on a consolidated comprehensive needs assessment that will address community and educational needs of the regional partnership. Each district, area technology center and regional KCTCS college will come together to develop one plan for the regional partnership that guarantees the workforce needs in the community are being met. The plans will require that recipients address how the academic elements of the programs of study will be strengthened through the integration of career and technical components and ensure that determined outcomes are being met. Secondary and postsecondary institutions will be implementing programs of study that are aligned to industry standards, leading to an industry-recognized certification or college credit.

Additionally, the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition has set specific annual goals based on the Perkins performance indicators, to ensure that eligible recipients are monitoring growth. These goals are part of the recipient’s application, which asks them to detail actions that have been taken that enabled the district to meet the goal or to develop an improvement plan to assist with meeting the goal.

In order to ensure that eligible recipients are promoting academic and technical achievement, the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition monitors eligible recipients through a risk-based analysis according to requirements in the Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) under EDGAR. This process involves the use of data-driven tools to select recipients for a face-to-face monitoring visit. The visit provides the Department an opportunity to provide technical assistance, as needed.

In order to promote continuous improvement in academic achievement and technical skill attainment, KCTCS faculty and staff align technical program content and identify end-of-program assessments that meet business and industry standards. This process requires continuous evaluation, due to the changing needs of industry partners and updates in technology and equipment. Faculty and administration utilize this assessment data to aid in the measurement of student attainment of career and technical skill proficiencies, program content, and pedagogy. Each program of study seeks to ensure graduates meet the needs of industry and reviews those needs in partnership with program industry advisory committees. While KCTCS programs are reviewed on a regular cycle by the
Kentucky CPE, KCTCS is working with the Council on a third-party validation process regarding the inclusion of employability skills in the curriculum.

(ii) expand access to career and technical education for special populations; and

Special population representatives are required to engage in the comprehensive needs assessment process. Each recipient will be required to address high-skill, high-wage and in-demand occupations for all students, including special populations. The groups will address the need to expand courses and programs in their area to meet the identified workforce needs. Each secondary recipient is required to have a system that leads the student to an individual learning plan. Early career exploration for all students, beginning as early as the fifth grade, will ensure that the special populations have equal access to and ability to participate in CTE programs.

KCTCS colleges and regional universities provide support services to special populations and work with state services, such as Vocational Rehabilitation, to ensure access to postsecondary education when the student meets program entry admission standards. Technical certification of fewer than 18 credit hours have few admissions requirements. Colleges meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and Offices for Disability Services work with students, as requested.

KCTCS colleges offer disability support services, access to mental health counseling, Veterans services, and coordination with social services agencies for housing, childcare and transportation, special scholarships for students from foster care, and other services supporting special populations. In partnership with the state’s Vocational Rehabilitation services, each college has a Pre-Employment and Transitions Specialist, who works with high school students and adults with disabilities to coordinate access to education and employment.

(iii) support the inclusion of employability skills in programs of study and career pathways;

In Kentucky, legislation (KRS 158.645) has been passed for standards of essential (employability) skills identified by business and industry, which requires that schools provide instruction for all secondary students, ending with a seal or credential which validates competency of these essential skills. Additionally, the state-developed programs of study include both employability standards, as well as foundational academic and technical standards.

KCTCS colleges and regional universities include employability skills through various program curricula. Inclusion of general education courses within the AAS curriculum provides instruction in such skills as writing, reading, critical thinking and other employability skills. Each program of study seeks to ensure graduates meet the needs of industry and reviews those needs in partnership with the program industry advisory
committees. While programs are reviewed on a regular cycle by the Kentucky CPE, KCTCS is working with the Council on a third-party validation process regarding the inclusion of employability skills in the curriculum.

(C) how the eligible agency will:

(i) make information on approved programs of study and career pathways (including career exploration, work-based learning opportunities, early college high schools, and dual or concurrent enrollment program opportunities) and guidance and advisement resources, available to students (and parents, as appropriate), representatives of secondary and postsecondary education, and special populations, and to the extent practicable, provide that information and those resources in a language students, parents, and educators can understand;

The KDE annually publishes all approved programs of study on the Department’s website at the following link: https://education.ky.gov/CTE/ctepa/Pages/default.aspx. Districts are notified when the new document is released each year. To ensure equitable access by all users, the documents on the website are 508 compliant.

The dual credit pathways developed by KCTCS are available on the KCTCS dual credit website at https://kctcs.edu/dual-credit/pathways/index.aspx. This website assists college dual credit coordinators and other staff with clearly communicating available pathways to students, parents, high school counselors and other school personnel, as well as to those who might be assisting students in choosing career pathways. The pathways are also communicated to students, parents, and educators via printed brochures, flyers and social media. College dual credit coordinators, faculty, staff, and administrators help communicate information through public relations messaging, orientations, one-on-one advising, public meetings, and other methods.

KCTCS is developing a guide for students and parents, as well as another for high school counselors and administrators, which will include information on the various career pathways. The main message for all pathways is, Make Every Credit Count! The goal is to help parents, students, advisors and instructors understand that students should enroll in dual credit courses that have value and count towards their postsecondary plans. Students have several options after high school, including enrolling in a two- or four-year institution, pursuing an apprenticeship, and starting work. It is important that each dual credit course taken counts toward their goal; thus, the pathways are intended to help educate students on what courses they should take based on such goals.

Information on the KDE and KCTCS approved programs of study and career pathways is disseminated through numerous sources such as:

- webinars for school staff;
- regional trainings and workshops;
- KDE Commissioner’s weekly e-mail to superintendents;
web pages available to the public (secondary and postsecondary);
- KACTE summer CTE conference for P-20 educators;
- social media pages and feeds by school, college, KDE and KCTCS;
- the Kentucky Teacher newsletter;
- the State Counselors newsletter;
- communication to CTE district contacts;
- district and college catalogs and view-books, flyers and other printed media; and
- local career fairs.

The information is provided at the secondary and postsecondary levels to all community members, including special populations.

KCTCS provides information on its programs of study through its student-facing website at https://kctcs.edu, as well as the 16 individual college websites which highlight programs of study. Information on the GED Plus program may be found online at https://gedplusky.org/. Information on the KY FAME program may be found at http://kyfame.com/. Information on various apprenticeships may be found through the Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development’s website at https://educationcabinet.ky.gov/Initiatives/apprenticeship/Pages/default.aspx,

KCTCS also markets its programs by college via social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), printed materials such as the KCTCS Catalog, Viewbooks for each college, mailers, and other materials. TV and radio advertising are also utilized.

KCTCS colleges have recruiters who visit high schools, along with dual credit coordinators, to ensure students are aware of various pathways and programs of study. Recruiters also visit places of employment and social service agencies to reach out to various adult populations.

(ii) facilitate collaboration among eligible recipients in the development and coordination of career and technical education programs and programs of study and career pathways that include multiple entry and exit points;

Career pathways are developed, implemented, and improved in partnership among secondary and postsecondary institutions, as well as business and industry. Pathways are available to all students, including adult learners, including special populations, and are designed to lead to rewarding careers. Work teams consisting of secondary teachers, agency staff, community and technical college faculty, university faculty, and business and industry representatives use a curriculum template to align curriculum in career clusters being developed and implemented. Information from the Perkins V Needs Assessment process will help inform the development of technical programs.

A joint curriculum committee, consisting of both secondary and postsecondary teachers from the specific program and business and industry representatives from that employment sector, develops, reviews, revises and/or aligns course content on a regular basis.
Programs consist of non-duplicative course sequences that include coherent and rigorous academic and technical content needed for the occupation. The integration of academic content into technical instruction occurs as joint instructional activities are developed between academic and technical instructors at both the secondary and postsecondary levels. Workshops will be provided to assist academic and technical teachers in jointly developing instructional materials and implementing instructional strategies that challenge students to apply academic content in a technical setting.

The programs of study, particularly for adult learners and special population students, include multiple entry and exit points, some with stackable certificates within a degree program. Eligible recipients participate in local program advisory committees as well as in the Perkins V needs assessment process and inform the curriculum development process.

(iii) use State, regional, or local labor market data to determine alignment of eligible recipients' programs of study to the needs of the State, regional, or local economy, including in-demand industry sectors and occupations identified by the State board, and to align career and technical education with such needs, as appropriate,

The KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition uses the data from the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KY stats) to align all secondary programs of study to either the top five industry sectors identified by the KWIB, or to the supporting occupations aligned to the sectors. The supporting occupations are identified as, but not limited to, areas such as education, childcare, farming, and law and public services.

KCTCS utilizes the Occupational Outlooks and Occupational Wage files as produced by the KY stats in combination with other resources such as: real-time job postings from Burning Glass, credentials awarded as reported to the National Center for Education Statistics through IPEDS, and outcomes of our own graduates, to produce a program alignment tool to ensure we meet the needs of our communities. In addition, credentials in STEM+H, high-wage and high-demand occupations, and targeted industry sectors are highlighted and monitored due to their inclusion with the state’s performance-based funding for KCTCS.

The EMSI Analyst program provides KCTCS colleges employment, wage, and demographic data down to the zip code level regarding labor supply, occupational details and training. EMSI utilizes real time labor market data to assess supply and demand for CTE programs, assisting colleges in determining local needs and analyzing the need for continuing programs.
(iv) ensure equal access to approved career and technical education programs of study and activities assisted under this Act for special populations;

Kentucky provides annual professional development for K-12 teachers, as well as college faculty and staff, on ensuring equal access to CTE programs for all students. As required by law, Kentucky ensures all students will not be discriminated against based on economic need, disability, gender, sexual orientation, age and/or color.

KCTCS colleges offer disability support services, access to mental health counseling, Veteran’s services, coordination with social services agencies for housing, childcare and transportation, special scholarships for students from foster care, and other services supporting special populations. In partnership with the state’s Vocational Rehabilitation services, each college has a Pre-Employment and Transitions Specialist, who works with high school students and adults with disabilities to coordinate access to education and employment.

KCTCS has two (2) special programs supporting Veterans:

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) and Ft. Knox have entered into a Career Skills Program (CSP) partnership to provide postsecondary training to any soldier in the United States Army who is interested in a career in the field of advanced manufacturing. The CSP allows a soldier to receive up to six months of training as they transition to civilian life. ECTC is the only approved location in the United States for training in advanced manufacturing fields such as industrial maintenance, electricity, robotics and automation, computer-aided drafting and design, and electronics engineering technology.

In its Veterans Accelerated Learning for Licensed Occupations initiative, or VALLO programs, KCTCS staff work to increase and expedite attainment of state occupational licenses by veterans. Staff accomplish this by identifying gaps between military education and training in specific military occupations as compared to the education required for related licensed civilian occupations. They then work with program faculty to identify instances in which KCTCS programs can waive required courses by awarding credit for military training or by giving veterans advanced standing within an existing training program as a bridge to the degree.

(v) coordinate with the State board to support the local development of career pathways and articulate processes by which career pathways will be developed by local workforce development boards, as appropriate;

The KWIB has two sub-committees; 1.) Employer Engagement and 2.) Education Attainment and Completion. Both committees work with KDE and KCTCS to jointly plan, align, and coordinate the leveraging of funds between Kentucky’s CTE programs and programs of study with the state’s workforce development system. Representatives from KDE and KCTCS attend these meetings to better understand
KWIB initiatives and discuss current and future partnerships. The KWIB provides support to the education system in many ways, such as through the certifying of credentials for P-12 providers to ensure alignment between credentials earned by high school graduates and those required by employers. These credentials are also considered by KCTCS colleges as they develop new and review existing technical programs. The KWIB also provides guidance and employer involvement in the implementation of the state-wide Perkins Leadership funds.

KDE and KCTCS partner with the KWIB and with local WIBs in planning efforts to ensure that CTE programs offered are meeting the needs of business and industry in the respective regions. In return, WIBs may focus scholarship dollars to help meet student needs and provide assistance through out-of-school youth funds.

The KWIB and local WIBs determine sectors of need through their strategic planning processes. Schools and colleges work with this guidance using LMI data to determine new programs of study and continuing need for current programs. Stackable credentials within programs are recognized at both the secondary and postsecondary level.

(vi) Support effective and meaningful collaboration between secondary schools, Postsecondary institutions, and employers to provide students with experience in, and understanding of, all aspects of an industry, which may include work-based learning such as internships, mentorships, simulated work environments, and other hands-on or inquiry-based learning activities; and

KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition has developed and provided a Work-Based Learning Manual for use by all secondary schools. The manual addresses the nine different types of work-based learning (job shadowing, mentoring, student enterprises, internships, etc.), outlines administrative regulations and federal laws that impact work-based learning experiences, and provides guidelines and required documentation for activities in all nine areas.

As mentioned previously, the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition also administers the Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK) program. The program allows employers across the state to develop registered youth apprenticeships, in partnership with local CTE programs. The employers have the autonomy to design the program to fit their specific needs by identifying the specific course sequences and competencies for the students. TRACK pathways include many of the traditional apprenticeship areas, such as manufacturing and construction, but the program has expanded into more non-traditional workforce sectors, such as healthcare, information technology, insurance and early childhood education. Kentucky’s program has been spotlighted nationally on many occasions as a leading youth apprenticeship model.

KCTCS offers a variety of work-based learning opportunities within its technical programs for high school and adult students. Dependent on the program, these may include internships, clinicals, cooperative work experiences, and apprenticeships.
Programs are led by local employer chapters, in partnership with their local Community and Technical College.

Other examples of hands-on, inquiry-based program of study include these examples from three KCTCS Colleges:

SKY FLEX – Faculty blended learning to increase accessibility and quality of programs. They created videos for online coursework, so students only have to be on campus for half of their class time. Students must show a competency before taking the exam. Faculty use virtual simulations rather than labs. Program may be used for adult or dual credit students.

Advanced Integrative Manufacturing program provides flexible on-site scheduling of laboratory course work and online delivery of instructional course work, providing students flexibility, to complete their degree.

The Tech X multi-craft technology program includes Gas Welder, Arc Cutter, Production Line Welder and Forklift Operator Certificates. Classes are designed according to project-based coursework. Participants work independently and in teams with problem-based scenarios related to the manufacturing processes.

The student may enter a program of study that includes a Registered Apprenticeship through an organized labor-offered program, through an employer-provided or sponsored program, or with an employer through an intermediary. The program includes appropriate education and training hours as well as on the job training, which may be provided through organized labor, secondary and postsecondary institutions, or other employers.

Alternatively, the student may participate in an industry-recognized apprenticeship model such as the Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (KY FAME) “work-and-learn” program. A KY FAME student attends a KCTCS College FAME program at a sponsoring employer. A KY FAME student earns wages from their sponsor company; the employer pays one-half of program tuition. A KY FAME student graduates with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Industrial Maintenance Technology: Advanced Manufacturing Technology after five consecutive semesters.

(vii) improve outcomes and reduce performance gaps for CTE concentrators, including those who are members of special populations; and

Through a collaborative process, the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition developed a career readiness program identified for students that meet the criteria for alternate assessment. The program has a sequence of four (4) courses, which lead to a Career Work Experience Certification. The courses are designed to provide equal access activities, such as
learning in the workplace, work experience, development of leadership skills and other employability skills.

Additionally, the state’s Area Technology Centers offer summer career camps for non-traditional students as a method of early career exploration. The camps are structured to introduce middle school and rising high school students to non-traditional career opportunities. The camps are open to all students. The camp participants meet with postsecondary institutions and businesses to discuss career options. Most sites also partner with local school districts to provide transportation and meals. Students hear from guest speakers such as female welders, female construction workers, male nurses, etc. Students participate in hands-on activities and learning labs in program areas such as welding, CAD, medical nurse aide, and engineering.

Consistent, timely collaboration and communication occurs between school personnel, families and students related to the recruitment, application, selection, placement and service delivery for students with disabilities in CTE pathways.

Individuals who are members of special populations are provided equal access under Perkins V by providing modified lessons and accommodations. Students who receive assessment accommodations based on their high school Individual Education Program (IEP), 504 Plan or Program Services Plan (PSP), with appropriate documentation in Infinite Campus (IC) prior to testing, may utilize the accommodations for the Career and Technical Education End-of-Program (CTE EOP) assessment, TRACK Carpentry or TRACK Electrical assessments. Student testing accommodations must be provided in accordance with the Administrative Code for Kentucky’s Educational Assessment Program and Inclusion of Special Populations regulation trainings. Families are provided with brochures and if appropriate an Admission and Release Committee (ARC) is held where strengths and weaknesses are discussed and a plan for training and employment is discussed. Usually a representative from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, a state agency which assists Kentuckians with disabilities with employment opportunities, is invited to the ARC. Depending on the needs of the student, an individual learning plan is developed which is guided by the student’s employment goal.

Foster children in Kentucky are required to participate in an independent living program with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or the private childcare foster agency in which they are placed. One portion of the program is related to careers and the successful career skills needed for successful employment. KCTCS colleges provide special scholarship funds covering tuition for foster children and supporting access to any program of study at a KCTCS college.

KCTCS colleges provide access to support services to special populations and work with state services such as Vocational Rehabilitation to ensure access to postsecondary education when the student meets program entry admission
standards. Technical certification of fewer than 18 credit hours have few admissions requirements. Colleges meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and Offices for Disability Services work with students as requested. In partnership with the state’s Vocational Rehabilitation services, each college has a Pre-Employment and Transitions Specialist, who works with high school students and adults with disabilities to coordinate access to education and employment and helps develop processes to reduce performance gaps.

In its Veterans Accelerated Learning for Licensed Occupations initiative, or VALLO programs, KCTCS staff work to increase and expedite attainment of state occupational licenses by veterans. Staff accomplish this by identifying gaps between military education and training in specific military occupations as compared to the education required for related licensed civilian occupations. They then work with program faculty to identify instances in which KCTCS programs can waive required courses by awarding credit for military training or by giving veterans advanced standing within an existing training program as a bridge to the degree.

iii. **how the eligible agency may include the opportunity for secondary school students to participate in dual or concurrent enrollment programs, early college high school, or competency-based education;**

Kentucky high school students may participate in a wide range of dual credit courses throughout high school. In the most recent school year, KCTCS offered more than 700 unique courses for dual credit across the state, with approximately 2/3 of the courses in CTE.

In partnership with KDE, KCTCS colleges provide multiple ways for high school students to enter their chosen career pathway. Students in high school may earn college credit in several ways. Students may earn dual credit (each class provides credit towards both a college credential and high school graduation) or be considered dual enrollment students. KCTCS colleges charge dual credit students only a portion of regular college tuition, which can then be covered by a state-funded scholarship.

KDE and KCTCS collaborate to provide high school students with seamless dual credit model pathways for the most in-demand technical programs by utilizing the state’s two dual credit scholarships, Work Ready Kentucky Dual Credit Scholarship (WRDCS) and Dual Credit Scholarship (DCS). All Kentucky high school students are eligible to receive two approved dual credit courses per year of career and technical education offerings within a career pathway approved by KDE per academic year for the Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarships. Each year, high school juniors and seniors are also eligible for a total of two approved dual credit courses within a program of study approved by KDE using the Kentucky Dual Credit Scholarships. To maximize these scholarships, the model program of study identifies a sequence of ten courses that will help them earn up to a year of the Associate of Applied Science Degree while still enrolled in high school. Students who do not meet the college readiness benchmarks to enroll in dual credit courses can work on
the corresponding high school courses in that program until they are college ready and can start the course sequence at that time. Templates have been developed to show students, parents and high school counselors the pathways, and a guide will be developed to help local school districts partner with their local community and technical college to develop their own programs of study to meet local needs.

Kentucky’s processes articulate transfer coursework and programs from secondary CTE to postsecondary, postsecondary CTE certificates to degrees, and associate degrees to bachelors’ degrees. These pathways serve secondary students, traditional-age college students and returning adults. Students in postsecondary CTE can enter from articulated pathways in secondary, enter independently of their secondary programs, or enter as adult learners into certificate and degree pathways.

More than half of the 16 KCTCS colleges offer an early college high school program, where the student can earn their Associate degree during their junior and senior years. Most of the courses in the early college program are eligible for dual credit, meaning students can earn their Associate degree through scholarships and the reduced tuition rate.

An example of Early College: beginning in 2019-2020, KCTCS’s Hazard Community and Technical College partnered with Perry County Public Schools to begin a “K-TECH,” a dual credit high school which provides a technical program of study beginning in the 9th grade and continuing with an apprenticeship so the student ends the program with a two-year degree and two years of apprenticeship with an employer in health career or computer science. This model is being considered at other KCTCS colleges.

(5) a description of the criteria and process for how the eligible agency will approve eligible recipients for funds under this Act, including how-

(A) each eligible recipient will promote academic achievement;

Eligible recipients for Perkins funds will develop a local application based on a consolidated comprehensive needs assessment that will address community and educational needs of the county. The plans will require that recipients address how the academic elements of the programs of study will be strengthened through the integration of career and technical components and ensure that determined outcomes are being met.

KCTCS promotes academic achievement through faculty advising and skill mentoring in and outside the classroom. Colleges use a number of strategies to help retain students, including access to academic counseling, tutoring services, financial aid, library assistance, disability and Veteran’s services and other student services. While all KCTCS faculty and staff want to see dual credit and adult students meet their educational goals and achieve academically; the Colleges are also rewarded in student achievement through the state’s performance-based funding model.
In order to promote continuous improvement in academic achievement and technical skill attainment, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) faculty and staff align technical program content and identify end of program assessments that meet business and industry standards. This process requires continuous evaluation based on changes with industry partners and advancements in technology and equipment. Faculty and administration utilize this assessment data to aid in the measurement of student attainment of career and technical skill proficiencies, program content, and pedagogy. Each program of study seeks to ensure graduates meet the needs of industry and reviews those needs in partnership with program industry advisory committees. Programs are reviewed on a regular cycle by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

(B) each eligible recipient will promote skill attainment, including skill attainment that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential; and

The programs of study approved by the KDE are aligned to an industry certification or an end-of-program assessment that offers articulated postsecondary credit. The industry certifications are approved annually by the KWIB. Both the industry certification and the end-of-program assessments are recognized in the state’s K-12 accountability system as an indicator of high school “transition readiness”.

KCTCS builds course competencies into each course offered. These range from employability skills learned through general education classes such as communication, critical thinking, and teamwork, to specific technical skills, such as welding, accounting, or computer programming. The skill outcomes in each course are documented through student work and faculty review and documentation of that work. As the program pathway is complete, students may earn stackable credentials (certificates) if available for that pathway. The student may also earn nationally recognized certifications dependent on the program of study. Each program of study leads to a certificate, diploma or degree.

(C) each eligible recipient will ensure the comprehensive needs assessment under section 134(c) takes into consideration local economic and education needs, including, where appropriate, in-demand industry sectors and occupations;

Kentucky has 120 counties and each county is associated with one of the state’s ten (10) WIBs. In addition to the WIBs, there are multiple economic development organizations serving these counties. To facilitate appropriate participation by parents, educators, social service providers, representatives of special populations, economic development and local Chamber of Commerce leadership, government, and other required participants, the eligible recipients must develop partnerships based on the KCTCS Regional Services Areas, New Skills for Youth Consortiums or partnerships between school districts, area technology centers, regional universities, and/or and KCTCS college.
Eligible recipients for Perkins funds shall develop a local application based on a consolidated comprehensive needs assessment that will address community, educational and workforce needs of the county or region. Each district, area technology center, regional KCTCS college and regional university will come together to develop a unified plan for the area to guarantee that community, educational and workforce needs in the community are being met. Secondary and postsecondary institutions will be implementing programs of study that are aligned to industry standards, leading to an industry-recognized certification or college credit.

A template of the required needs analysis data and information shall be completed by each group based on the outcomes generated for their county/region at the comprehensive needs analysis forums.

(6) a description of how the eligible agency will support the recruitment and preparation of teachers, including special education teachers, faculty, school principals, administrators, specialized instructional support personnel, and paraprofessionals to provide career and technical education instruction, leadership, and support, including professional development that provides the knowledge and skills needed to work with and improve instruction for special populations;

Kentucky recruits new teachers through several media outlets such as websites, newspapers and universities. Kentucky’s New Teacher Institute (NTI) is designed to introduce new occupation-based CTE teachers to the profession while offering practical skills and dispositions to be successful in the classroom. The NTI is a 24-month induction model administered by the KDE for all occupation-based CTE teachers pursuing professional teacher certification in Kentucky. The NTI works in conjunction with post-secondary institutions and the local education agency. Candidates pursuing occupation-based certification must satisfy a degree requirement within six (6) years of initial provisional certification. An associate’s degree or higher in the content area in which the candidate is seeking certification for CTE is required. A bachelor’s degree or higher in the content area in which the candidate is seeking certification, an approved Rank 1 program, or eligible to earn up to twelve (12) credit hours at the pre-baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate level through the University of Louisville or Murray State University to be applied to the appropriate degree.

According to the national Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), CTE can enhance adolescent math and literacy understanding by engaging students in rigorous and relevant content, integrating literacy strategies and providing opportunities for in-depth application and enrichment of content. CTE teachers provide a variety of assignments that support the achievement of academic standards, necessary for further learning and the workplace. Kentucky’s NTI curriculum provides participants the ability to analyze the role CTE can play in improving student literacy, explain the importance of integrating literacy and math into CTE instruction, and develop assignments that engage students in reading and writing in CTE.
KCTCS hires CTE faculty from industry to teach college coursework and may also certify high school instructors to teach dual credit classes. As per SACSCOC, the regional accrediting agency for KCTCS colleges, an institution must justify and document the qualifications of its faculty. For technical programs, these qualifications vary based on program. For example, a Nursing instructor position may require a Master’s degree. A faculty member may hold the program degree (i.e. an Associate’s degree in welding) and teach in the program. Some AAS programs with a strong transfer component, such as Business, may require a master’s degree to teach. In some technical/trades fields, a faculty member may be credentialed by exception based on experience or certifications held.

KCTCS faculty are offered professional development as new and as continuing instructors. New faculty programs are offered at many of the colleges; all new faculty are peer mentored. CTE faculty attend conferences around their technical field, work with industry advisors, and attend College-provided professional development to ensure understanding of the support of special needs students, College advising protocol, and curriculum.

The Kentucky Association of Career and Technical Education (KACTE) provides annual professional development for educators. The professional development updates educators on career pathways, career trends and funds available for students who participate in CTE. Educators are then able to communicate this information to parents and students.

(7) a description of how the eligible agency will use State Leadership funds under section 124;

Kentucky will meet the four required areas within the law for state leadership funds. The state will arrange summer camps for students in non-traditional occupational areas; continue to develop teachers through the NTI; provide funds to the Department of Corrections for CTE students in correctional institutions, Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Deaf and the Department for Juvenile Justice; and offer technical assistance for eligible recipients.

For the permissible uses of state leadership funds, all project proposals will be approved by the KWIB. Projects will include activities that address professional development, curriculum, technical assistance and assessment.

(8) a description of how funds received by the eligible agency through the allotment made under section 111 will be distributed:

(A) among career and technical education at the secondary level, or career and technical education at the postsecondary and adult level, or both, including how such distribution will most effectively provide students with the skills needed to succeed in the workplace;
Title I funds received under Section 111 of the Act will be allocated in the following categories: 85 percent of the funds will be allocated to local boards of education, area technology centers, and postsecondary institutions. The allocation of funds to the eligible recipients at the secondary level are based on population and poverty in the areas served by the recipient. Area Technology Centers are based on the percentage of students served from the local district.

Allocations to postsecondary institutions are based upon the number of students enrolled in CTE associate degree programs who receive Pell Grants. Each institution will receive its proportionate share of the state allocation based upon the state total of students pursuing an associate degree receiving financial assistance through the Pell Grant. This is an unduplicated count.

The secondary/postsecondary funding split for the 4-year state plan will be based on the average of the last three years’ calculated attend hours for the eligible recipients. The split starting in the 2020-21 fiscal year will be 57% secondary to 43% postsecondary. The split will remain the same over the four years of the state plan. The state will re-evaluate the calculations and procedure with the adoption of a new state plan.

(B) among any consortia that may be formed among secondary schools and eligible institutions, and how funds will be distributed among the members of the consortia, including the rationale for such distribution and how it will most effectively provide students with the skills needed to succeed in the workplace;

When a local educational agency allocation is $15,000 or less, they will be encouraged to enter into a consortium with other local educational agencies to meet the minimum required funding, enter into an agreement with an area technology center, transfer allocation to the area technology center, or operate programs that are of sufficient size, scope and quality to be effective. If local educational agencies do not accept any of the above options, the eligible agency will require local educational agencies to form a consortium with other local educational agencies to reach a funding level of more than $15,000. One local educational agency will be the fiscal agent and coordinate all program improvement activities within the consortium. All partners in the consortium must participate in the same activities that are mutually beneficial to all.

For any postsecondary institution receiving less than $50,000, the funds will be redistributed to the other eligible recipients.

(9) a description of the eligible agency’s program strategies for special populations, including a description of how individuals who are members of special populations:

(A) will be provided with equal access to activities assisted under this Act;
Through KDE’s NTI program, new CTE teachers are being trained regarding special populations and transition readiness. These teachers are also provided mentors which assist them with access and opportunity for special populations in the CTE programs. In addition, students who are identified with severe disabilities and who receive an alternate diploma may receive a career work experience certification.

State-wide WIOA Pre-Employment Transitions Services contractors/service providers from the KCTCS Colleges deliver five categories of services to students ages 14-21 with IEPs and who are 504 eligible: (1) job exploration counseling; (2) work-based learning experiences, which may include in-school or after school opportunities, or experience outside the traditional school setting (including internships), that is provided in an integrated environment to the maximum extent possible; (3) counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary education programs at institutions of higher education; (4) workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living; and (5) instruction in self-advocacy, which may include peer mentoring.

Coordinators use the WIOA Focus Career system to help students with labor market data research on available jobs, resume building, interview skills etc.

Both KDE and KCTCS make programs available to special populations. KCTCS Colleges offer disability support services; access to mental health counseling; Veteran’s services; coordination with social services agencies for housing, childcare and transportation; special scholarships for students from foster care; and other services supporting special populations. In partnership with the state’s Vocational Rehabilitation services, each College has a Pre-Employment and Transitions Specialist, who works with high school students and adults with disabilities to coordinate access to education and employment. These services help provide equal access to activities supported under this Act.

(B) will not be discriminated against on the basis of status as a member of a special population;

The state of Kentucky prohibits discrimination under the Non-discrimination under The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title I of the ADA, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

(C) will be provided with programs designed to enable individuals who are members of special populations to meet or exceed State determined levels of performance described in section 113, and prepare special populations for further learning and for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

The state of Kentucky has developed innovative programs such as the New Skills for Youth Regional Academies, non-traditional career opportunities, new graduation requirements, and the New Teacher Institute. Kentucky has also adopted legislation for dual credit within career and technical education as well as work ready
scholarship opportunities for adults. The state of Kentucky’s educational agencies is committed to partnering with business and industry regarding employment needs for high-skill, high-wage and in-demand industry occupations.

KCTCS colleges provide intensive case management and work study opportunities to assist low-income custodial parents who are eligible for the KY Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) to transition into KCTCS colleges or gain employment skills training. Two of the KCTCS Colleges are piloting the engagement of Kentucky’s SNAP Food Stamp clients in employment and training services.

KCTCS works with various special populations for further learning and for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations. Dependent on college and program readiness indicators, individuals may access a variety of technical programs. Special accommodations and provisions are available for individuals with low skill levels, including additional support and access to special programs. Disabilities services are available to available as needed, as well as academic and career counseling. And specific programs for Veterans, incarcerated students, and other special populations are made available.

**D** will be provided with appropriate accommodations;

For KDE, Infinite Campus (IC) is the authoritative source for accommodations for public education. It ensures Individual Education Plans (IEPs), 504 Plans and PSPs in Infinite Campus document all accommodations required for students with special needs. Such accommodations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Large Print:** Students can increase font size for large print by holding the Ctrl key and pressing the + key.

- **Readers:** Accommodations for readers will be handled locally by having readers read from the student computer screen or connecting a second monitor to the computer to read the assessment. The reader-to-student ratio must be a one-to-one. While not supported by TFI, some schools have successfully used assistive technology screen reader software (e.g., NVDA or Read and Write Gold) to meet special needs for readers.

- **Extended Time:** This will be added to a student test account based on student information in Infinite Campus. Test Coordinators should review student test tickets prior to testing to ensure extended time accommodations are accurate. Once the student logs into their account and begins the assessment, the timer begins to run down until the student completes the assessment and submits for grading or time expires.

- **Accommodations data is captured in IC and utilized to indicate extended time accommodations. IEPs with extended time accommodations and 504 Plans are pulled from IC; however, extended time accommodation for PSPs must be requested. Test coordinators should verify extended time accuracy prior to testing and request any necessary changes. Also, test administrators should verify the student’s time is accurate upon log in to their test account. If there is**
a problem, contact Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition (OCTEST) for assistance.

Student testing accommodations must be provided in accordance with the Administration Code for Kentucky's Educational Assessment Program and Inclusion of Special Populations regulation trainings.

The postsecondary institutions offer appropriate disability support services and accommodations, including access to American Sign Language interpreters, readers, assistive technology, extra time on task, access to mental health counseling, and more. Professional development on serving students with disabilities is provide to faculty. College facilities are ADA-compliant.

KCTCS delivered Pre-Employment and Transition Services including the “Next Up” curriculum, a web-based curriculum which includes video lessons to build pre-employment, on-the-job and independent living skills. These services also include access to the web-based Am I Job Ready curriculum, to develop students’ critical soft skills. The KCTCS Pre-ETS services also include access to www.virtualjobshadow.com, a unique video-based career-planning platform. The interactive Virtual Job Shadow tool helps students and job seekers develop career paths based on informed choices, rather than chance. The job shadowing and career advice videos take career exploration to the next level by connecting academics to the real world.

(E) will be provided instruction and work-based learning opportunities in integrated settings that support competitive, integrated employment;

Kentucky administers work-based learning opportunities according to 705 KAR 4:041, the Kentucky Administrative Regulation that guides work-based learning program standards. Incorporated by reference into this Kentucky Administrative Regulation is the Kentucky Work-Based Learning Manual, which addresses the entire spectrum of work-based learning opportunities for students. This continuum of work-based learning provides students with the opportunity to engage and interact with employers in a variety of ways, while learning to demonstrate essential employability and technical skills necessary for today’s workforce.

The state understands the importance for all stakeholders (students, parents, educators and employers) to operationalize and define these types of experiences in a common way. Through work with the National Governor’s Association (NGA), Kentucky has chosen to communicate and brand the continuum of work-based learning through three categories of experiences:
(10) a description of the procedure the eligible agency will adopt for determining State determined levels of performance described in section 113, which, at a minimum, shall include-

Kentucky will use ESSA requirements for combining demographics where low “N” counts exist. The state will tie funding to gap group goals when not meeting indicators for subpopulations and set local growth goals for recipients not meeting requirements.

(A) a description of the process for public comment under section 113(b)(3)(B) as part of the development of the State determined levels of performance under section 113(b);

Kentucky promoted the 60-day public comment window through a formal statewide press release that is sent to all education constituents across the Commonwealth. The indicator comments from the public were sent to a private email inbox that was established for gathering feedback. Additionally, KDE requested that state CTE partners, such as the KWIB and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, share the press release with their regional and local employer contacts.

(B) an explanation of the State determined levels of performance;

SECONDARY

- Graduation Rate
- Academic Attainment
- Follow-up, including community service and Peace Corp
- Concentrators in a Non-traditional field
- Graduating with a postsecondary credential

Definition of a Secondary CTE Concentrator:

Definition was decided on as completing two courses in a program of study. A course equals one high school credit on the student’s transcript.

From a postsecondary perspective, 3.0 credit hours equals one high school credit.
Graduation Rate:

Percentage of students completing the requirements for a Kentucky high school diploma compared to a cohort of students beginning in grade nine.

Percentage of CTE Concentrators that graduated in four years or less out of the four-year cohort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>96.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Attainment:

The KDE will use the ACT for the four-year plan.

Percentage of CTE Concentrators that met benchmarks on ACT mathematics, reading and science out of the four-year cohort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Year 1 Goal</th>
<th>Year 2 Goal</th>
<th>Year 3 Goal</th>
<th>Year 4 Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RD</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Follow-Up Information Required for Secondary and Postsecondary:

KDE will work with KYstats to get as much longitudinal data as possible and use follow-up and internal data to fill the gaps that cannot be provided by KYstats.

KYstats for UI data and other sources potentially to come (e.g. UI data from other states and/or FEDES). KCTCS will supplement by providing transfer data (including out-of-state), as well as additional components such as military in the absence of FEDES.

Percentage of exiting CTE Concentrators that successfully transitioned into postsecondary, employment, military, or volunteer services (Peace Corps) after high school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-traditional concentrators:

Kentucky will use data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for this indicator, unless there is a complete discrepancy with Kentucky data.
The measure will include the percentage of active CTE concentrators that were in non-traditional programs of study for their gender.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1 Goal</th>
<th>Year 2 Goal</th>
<th>Year 3 Goal</th>
<th>Year 4 Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quality Measure:**

Kentucky will use students graduating with a postsecondary credential as the quality measure. The items to be counted in the measure are Industry Certification, End of Program Assessments (EOP), and Apprenticeship.

Percentage of graduating CTE Concentrators that earned a valid postsecondary credential.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1 Goal</th>
<th>Year 2 Goal</th>
<th>Year 3 Goal</th>
<th>Year 4 Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POSTSECONDARY**

- Follow-up including community service and Peace Corp
- Concentrators who received a credential
- Concentrators in a Non-traditional field

**Definition of a Postsecondary CTE Concentrator:**

A student that has 12 credits unless the program has less than 12 hours to complete. If the program is fewer than 12 credit hours, a concentrator would be defined as a student who had completed a credential of less than 12 credit hours.

**Postsecondary follow-up:**

CTE concentrators that earn a degree or credential, if the program encompasses fewer than 12 credits, or have been in the program for four years and are no longer actively taking courses at the institution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1 Goal</th>
<th>Year 2 Goal</th>
<th>Year 3 Goal</th>
<th>Year 4 Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concentrator that receives a credential:

CTE concentrators that earn a degree or credential, if the program encompasses fewer than 12 credits, or have been in the program for four years and are no longer actively taking courses at the institution.

The percentage of CTE concentrators who receive a recognized postsecondary credential during participation in or within 1 year of program completion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1 Goal</th>
<th>Year 2 Goal</th>
<th>Year 3 Goal</th>
<th>Year 4 Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentrator in a non-traditional field:

Total number of CTE concentrators in a non-traditional field out of the total number of concentrators.

The percentage of CTE concentrators in CTE programs and programs of study that lead to non-traditional fields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1 Goal</th>
<th>Year 2 Goal</th>
<th>Year 3 Goal</th>
<th>Year 4 Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(C) a description of how the State determined levels of performance set by the eligible agency align with the levels, goals, and objectives of other Federal and State laws;

The KDE we will be analyzing 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 results to make proposals for levels of performance. The Department will also look at 2016-2017 results to set a more accurate trend line. Secondary and postsecondary recipients will meet the state goals outlined in the 4-year plan. The KCTCS as a whole will meet the state performance levels; however, the systems office may set specific college-level targets so that every college has stretch goals/milestones that are achievable with sustained effort.

(11) a description of how the eligible agency will address disparities or gaps in performance, as described in section 113(b)(3)(C)(ii)(II), in each of the plan years, and if no meaningful progress has been achieved prior to the third program year, a description of the additional actions the eligible agency will take to eliminate these disparities or gaps;

The KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition will review performance indicators annually to determine which eligible recipients are meeting the indicators. The recipients will address the indicators as part of a performance matrix in the local plan. Recipients not meeting the indicators or showing meaningful progress will be placed on levels on consequences. They will be
required to use a portion for their funds to address the gaps in benchmark performance.

In order to promote continuous improvement in academic achievement and technical skills attainment, KCTCS faculty and staff align technical program content and identify end of program assessments that meet business and industry standards. This process requires continuous evaluation to the changing needs of industry partners and advancement in technology and equipment. Faculty and administration utilize this assessment data to aid in the measurement of student attainment of career and technical skill proficiencies, program content, and pedagogy. The assessment data note gaps in performance, which may inform faculty professional development and performance review.

KCTCS colleges review technical programs annually and may redirect funding based on enrollments and graduate numbers. Programs are also reviewed on a regular cycle by the Kentucky CPE. The Council reserves the right to close KCTCS programs of study not meeting graduate and regional needs.

(12) describes how the eligible agency will involve parents, academic and career and technical education teachers, administrators, faculty, career guidance and academic counselors, local business (including small businesses), labor organizations, and representatives of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, as appropriate, in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of such career and technical education programs;

Career pathways are developed, implemented, and improved in partnerships among secondary and postsecondary institutions, as well as business and industry. Pathways are available to all students, including adult learners, and are designed to lead to rewarding careers. Work teams consisting of secondary teachers, agency staff, community and technical college faculty, university faculty, and business and industry representatives use a standardized template to align curriculum in the career clusters being developed and implemented. Information from the Perkins V Needs Assessment process, which involves representatives from special populations, will help inform the development of technical programs.

A joint curriculum committee (consisting of both secondary and postsecondary teachers from the specific program, as well as business and industry representatives from that employment sector) develops, reviews, revises and/or aligns course content on a regular basis.

(13) Assurances

a) the eligible agency will comply with the requirements of this Act and the provisions of the State plan, including the provision of a financial audit of funds received under this Act, which may be included as part of an audit of other Federal or State programs;

b) none of the funds expended under this Act will be used to acquire equipment (including computer software) in any instance in which such acquisition results in
a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the acquiring entity or the employees of the acquiring entity, or any affiliate of such an organization;
c) the eligible agency will use the funds to promote preparation for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations and non-traditional fields, as identified by the eligible agency;
d) the eligible agency will use the funds provided under this Act to implement career and technical education programs and programs of study for individuals in State correctional institutions, including juvenile justice facilities; and
e) the eligible agency will provide local educational agencies, area career and technical education schools, and eligible institutions in the State with technical assistance, including technical assistance on how to close gaps in student participation and performance in career and technical education programs;

All assurances will be signed as part of each recipient’s local application.

(14) a description of the opportunities for the public to comment in person and in writing on the State plan under this subsection.

The KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition held three (3) regional meetings to receive in-person public comments on the state plan. The dates and locations can be found below:

- October 17, 2019 – London, Kentucky
- October 24, 2019 – Frankfort, Kentucky
- October 28, 2019 – Madisonville, Kentucky

Additionally, the KDE requested that school districts in these regions of the state send a notice of the meeting on the parent “one-call” system and post it to their social media sites.

Kentucky promoted the 30-day public comment window through a formal statewide press release that is sent to all education constituents across the Commonwealth. The draft plan was posted to the KDE website for the required 30-day window and formal comments from the public was sent to a private email inbox that was established for gathering feedback. Additionally, KDE requested that state CTE partners, such as the KWIB and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, share the press release with their regional and local employer contacts. The state plan was also reviewed by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) at their regular meeting in February of 2020.