

STATE POLICIES ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND USE OF THE PERKINS IV FUNDS

1. Division of the Title I, Part C Funds between Secondary and Postsecondary Programs

Nebraska State Policy: The annual Title I, Part C funds will be divided between the secondary and postsecondary program levels based on a split of 55% to secondary eligible recipients and 45% to postsecondary eligible recipients.

2. Accountability and Performance Measures

Nebraska State Policy: Each local educational agency (LEA) receiving Perkins funds must, as a condition of receiving these funds, accept the State's agreed upon annual statewide performance levels for the core indicators established in the Act.

Perkins IV Requirements: LEAs falling below 90 percent on any agreed upon performance level will be considered Needs Improvement Agencies and will be required to submit a Program Improvement plan that identifies the planned strategies and activities the agency will employ during the upcoming year to bring its level(s) to the 90 percent compliance rate.

LEAs falling below 90 percent on three or more agreed upon annual performance levels on any agreed upon annual performance level will be considered Priority Improvement Agencies and will be required to submit a detailed action plan that describes the strategies to be implemented for bringing the agency to the 90 percent performance level within two years.

Ultimately, LEAs that fail to submit the required program improvement plans and/or fail to make the required improvements are subject to sanctions which could result in the loss of a portion or all of their allocated funds.

3. Requirements of Programs Assisted with Section 131/132 Funds

Perkins IV Requirements: Local eligible recipients must qualify for Perkins funds using the Essential Components checklist. This checklist must be completed at the building level for each secondary school and at the primary campus level for postsecondary. Once approved, the eligible recipient must incorporate the nine requirements established in Section 135(b) of Perkins IV:

1. *Strengthen the academic and career and technical skills of students participating in career and technical education programs, by strengthening the academic and career and technical education components of such programs through the integration of academics with career and technical education programs through a coherent sequence of courses, such as career and technical programs of study described in section 122(c)(1)(A), to ensure learning in--*
 - A) *the core academic subjects (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965); and*
 - B) *Career and technical education subjects;*
2. *Link career and technical education at the secondary level and career and technical education at the postsecondary level, including by offering the relevant elements of not less than 1 career and technical program of study described in section 122(c)(1)(A);*
3. *Provide students with strong experience in and understanding of all aspects of an industry, which may include work-based learning experiences;*
4. *Develop, improve, or expand the use of technology in career and technical education, which may include--*

- A *training of career and technical education teachers, faculty, and administrators to use technology, which may include distance learning;*
 - B *providing career and technical education students with the academic and career and technical skills (including the mathematics and science knowledge that provides a strong basis for such skills) that lead to entry into the technology fields; or*
 - C *encouraging schools to collaborate with technology industries to offer voluntary internships and mentoring programs, including programs that improve the mathematics and science knowledge of students;*
5. *Provide professional development programs that are consistent with section 122 to secondary and postsecondary teachers, faculty, administrators, and career guidance and academic counselors who are involved in integrated career and technical education programs, including--*
- A *in-service and pre-service training on--*
 - i *effective integration and use of challenging academic and career and technical education provided jointly with academic teachers to the extent practicable;*
 - ii *effective teaching skills based on research that includes promising practices;*
 - iii *effective practices to improve parental and community involvement; and*
 - iv *effective use of scientifically based research and data to improve instruction;*
 - B *support of education programs for teachers of career and technical education in public schools and other public school personnel who are involved in the direct delivery of educational services to career and technical education students, to ensure that such teachers and personnel stay current with all aspects of an industry;*
 - C *internship programs that provide relevant business experience; and*
 - D *programs designed to train teachers specifically in the effective use and application of technology to improve instruction;*
6. *Develop and implement evaluations of the career and technical education programs carried out with funds under this title, including an assessment of how the needs of special populations are being met;*
7. *Initiate, improve, expand, and modernize quality career and technical education programs, including relevant technology;*
8. *Provide services and activities that are of sufficient size, scope, and quality to be effective; and*
9. *Provide activities to prepare special populations, including single parents and displaced homemakers who are enrolled in career and technical education programs, for high skill, high wage, or high demand occupations that will lead to self-sufficiency.*

4. Requirements of Courses Assisted with Perkins IV Funds

Nebraska State Policy: Courses assisted with Perkins IV funds must have Nebraska Career Education as the primary focus and be integral to an approved program of study with the majority of the content reflective of the knowledge and skill required for the program of study.

5. Program of Study Requirement

Perkins IV Requirements: Each LEA receiving Section 131 (secondary) or 132 (postsecondary) funds must provide at least one program of study, as defined in Sections 122(c)(1)(A):

(A) the career and technical programs of study, which may be adopted by local educational agencies and postsecondary institutions to be offered as an option to students (and their parents as appropriate) when planning for and completing future coursework, for career and technical content areas that—

- (i) *incorporate secondary education and postsecondary education elements;*
- (ii) *include coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant career and technical content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses that align secondary education with postsecondary education to adequately prepare student to succeed in postsecondary education;*

- (iii) *may include the opportunity for secondary education students to participate in dual or concurrent enrollment programs or other ways to acquire postsecondary education credits; and*
- (iv) *lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.*

6. Middle School Participation in the Perkins IV Funds

Perkins IV Requirements: Middle (grades 7-8) school NCE courses may be assisted with Section 131 funds only if integral to approved sequences of courses conducted by a high school.

7. Minimum Allocations and Consortium Requirements

Perkins IV Requirements: Secondary - Pursuant to Section 131(c)(1) a local secondary school must qualify for a minimum allocation of \$15,000 to receive Perkins IV funds. Schools not qualifying for the minimum allocation are encouraged to participate in a consortium.

Nebraska State Policy: The Nebraska Department of Education has defined two options for a consortium: (1) cooperate with an Educational Service Unit to provide the management and coordination of the Perkins IV Grant or (2) cooperate with an area community college to provide the management and coordination of the Perkins IV Grant.

Perkins IV Requirements: Postsecondary – Pursuant to Section 132(c)(1) a postsecondary institution must qualify for a minimum allocation of \$50,000 to receive Perkins IV funds. Postsecondary institutions not qualifying for the minimum allocation are encouraged to participate in a consortium.

Nebraska State Policy: The Nebraska Department of Education has defined the option of allowing two or more postsecondary institutions to form a consortium for the management and coordination of the Perkins IV Grant.

8. Allocations to Section 131 and 132 Consortia May Not be Redistributed to Individual Members for Purposes or Programs that Benefit Only One Member

Perkins IV Requirements: In accordance with Sections 131(f)(2) and 132(a)(3)(B) of Perkins IV, funds allocated to a consortium formed to meet the minimum allocation requirement may be used only for purposes and programs that are mutually beneficial to all members of the consortium. These funds may not be reallocated to individual members of the consortium for purposes or programs benefiting only one member of the consortium.

9. Participation in the Partnership for Innovation Statewide Consortium

Nebraska State Policy: All secondary and postsecondary institution shall participate in the Partnership for Innovation (PFI) Statewide Consortium by providing the amount of allocation set by the Leadership Council of the Partnership for Innovation. The PFI will provide the leadership and resources for the development of statewide systems in support of career and technical education.

10. Accountability

Nebraska State Policy: The reporting of performance measures and accountability data will be established by the Nebraska Department of Education and use the Nebraska Student and Staff Record System (NSSRS) for secondary data collection. Data collected from postsecondary eligible recipients will continue to be collected using the online portal.

11. Fiscal Responsibility

Nebraska State Policy: Adherence to the contractual obligations described in the grant award notification and the deadlines established as such is a requirement for the grants administration of Perkins IV. Deadline dates for applications and closeouts will be strictly adhered to and enforced. The Nebraska Department of Education reserves the right to extend the deadline due to catastrophic events or activities. If the deadlines are not met, the resources will be reallocated to eligible recipients to conduct the work of Perkins IV.

12. Nebraska Career Education Model

Nebraska State Policy: The Nebraska Career Education Model, a national model, serves as the framework for planning, conducting, and evaluating the activities of career education supported by the resources of Perkins IV. The model includes six career fields, sixteen career clusters and a system that supports seamless transition and connectivity elementary through postsecondary education.