**Introduction**

The **Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-270)**, commonly known as **Perkins IV,** was reauthorized on July 26, 2018. The new law is **titled** **Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act**, and is referred to as **Perkins V.** In Massachusetts, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and specifically the Office for College, Career and Technical Education, administers Perkins V.

Communication between all stakeholders in career and technical education is key for the successful implementation of Perkins V programming. Resources are available to guide districts through requirements, foster self-assessment, and allow for program development. Liaisons are available to address questions and provide technical assistance.

School district, public two-year college, consortium, and correctional agency staff should review the Perkins V Manual and the [Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act](https://legcounsel.house.gov/Comps/Carl%20D.%20Perkins%20Career%20And%20Technical%20Education%20Act%20Of%202006(not-in-effect).pdf) in its entirety.

Notes:

* Both **Chapter 74-approved** **vocational technical education** programs and **Non-Chapter 74 career and technical education programs** meet the federal Perkins Act definition of **career and technical education**.
* “Career/vocational technical education programs” is the term used to denote both Chapter 74-approved vocational technical education programs and non-Chapter 74 career and technical education programs.
* The Perkins V Manual is the ‘umbrella manual’ for Perkins V in Massachusetts. The Manual will be updated as policy guidance is developed and disseminated by the United States Department of Education. The contents including requirements set forth in this manual are therefore subject to change.

**The Purpose of the Act**

The purpose of this Act is to develop more fully the academic knowledge and technical and employability skills of secondary and postsecondary education students who elect to enroll in career and technical education programs and program of study, by –

1. Building on efforts to develop challenging academic and technical standards and to assist students in meeting such standards, including preparation for high skill, high wage, or in-demand occupations in current or emerging profession;
2. Promoting the development of services and activities that integrate rigorous and challenging academic and career and technical instruction, and that link secondary education and postsecondary education for participating career and technical education students;
3. Increasing flexibility in providing services and activities designed to develop, implement, and improve career and technical education;
4. Conducting and disseminating national research and disseminating information on best practices that improve career and technical education programs and programs of study, services, and activities;
5. Providing technical assistance that –
   1. Promotes leadership, initial preparation, and professional development at the State and local levels; and
   2. Improves the quality of career and technical education teachers, faculty, administrators, and counselors;
6. Supporting partnerships amongst secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, baccalaureate degree granting institutions, career and technical education schools, local workforce investment boards, business and industry, and intermediaries;
7. Providing individuals with opportunities throughout their lifetimes to develop, in conjunction with other education and training programs, the knowledge and skills needed to keep the United States competitive; and
8. Increasing the employment opportunities for populations who are chronically unemployed or underemployed, including individuals with disabilities, individuals from economically disadvantaged families, out-of-workforce individuals, youth who are in, or have aged out of the foster care system, and homeless individuals.