



## Career and Technical Education Learning That Works for America

### *Talking Points Regarding Maintaining the Current Balance of Perkins Funding Between Virginia's Secondary and Postsecondary Public Schools*

**POINT:** In July 2011, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) wrote a letter to Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) requesting that VCCS receive a larger share of Perkins funds.

**RESPONSE:** Increased Perkins funding for VCCS would unfairly cut the much-needed Career and Technical Education (CTE) dollars that support our secondary public school programs.

In 2009–2010, enrollment in Virginia's secondary CTE courses totaled more than 591,300 with 29,057 students earning industry credentials, thus ensuring a professional level of performance and competence in corresponding areas of training and expertise.

Perkins funding at the secondary level enables local school divisions to offer innovative CTE programs. These programs ensure that students take the critical first step in moving through the career education pipeline. Without these programs, the VCCS would not have the guaranteed enrollment of students it currently enjoys, nor would those remaining students be prepared to enroll in anything beyond beginning-level courses. In 2009–2010, 73 percent of Virginia's CTE completers transitioned to postsecondary education and training.

For a variety of reasons, many students do not transition into postsecondary education at all. It is crucial to maintain funding for secondary CTE to motivate students to complete secondary programs and graduate with skills that can prepare them for a successful future in an increasingly competitive workforce.

Unlike the VCCS, which charges tuition and can often find additional funding streams, secondary CTE programs are free and available to all students. Local school divisions depend on the Perkins funds to set up, offer, and operate their CTE courses.

Secondary school funding for CTE through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act is vital to education and job training in communities and throughout state. CTE invests in Virginia's future by providing relevant learning experiences for students and effective, proven links to skills acquisition, enhanced academic achievement, and employment outcomes. In 2009–2010, 93 percent of CTE completers attained 80 percent of the essential competencies on the state-provided, industry-validated competency lists.

The current funding balance is working. According to national data (*2009–2010 Perkins Consolidated Annual Reports*), secondary CTE students surpassed state target performance levels in the following areas: Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Technical Skill Attainment. In Virginia, 98 percent of CTE completers passed the grade-level appropriate Standards of Learning Reading test, exceeding the 88 percent target performance, and 98 percent passed the Standards of Learning Mathematics test, exceeding the 79 percent target level.

#### **Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education**

<http://www.vacte.net>

#### **Affiliated Associations**

Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators  
Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators  
Virginia Association of Marketing Educators  
Virginia Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences  
Virginia Association of Trade and Industrial Education  
Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education–Special Needs Division  
Virginia Business Education Association  
Virginia Health and Medical Sciences Education Association  
Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association

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