



Strengthen Career and Technical Education

THE PERKINS ACT IS THE PRIMARY federal law supporting career and technical education (CTE), providing \$1 billion a year for secondary and postsecondary programs. But it hasn't been updated in over a decade, and it isn't keeping pace with the changing demands of local and regional industries or supporting the strategies that help working adults and other students get the skills they need to get – and keep – good jobs.

Congress should:

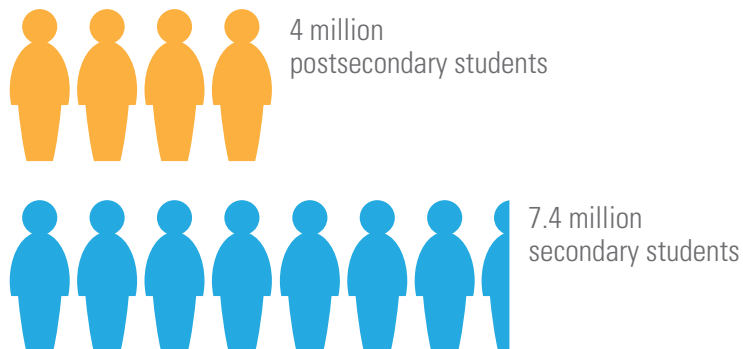
 **INVEST IN INDUSTRY-DRIVEN PARTNERSHIPS.** Congress should dedicate up to \$500 million to expand partnerships between local or regional industries, community colleges, and other stakeholders to ensure CTE programs are preparing students with skills needed by local employers.

 **EXPAND WORK-BASED LEARNING.** CTE works best when it provides hands-on opportunities, but current law doesn't fully support on-the-job experiences for students. Congress should strengthen connections to apprenticeship, internships, and other work-based learning strategies.

 **MEASURE REAL-WORLD OUTCOMES.** Working adults enroll in CTE programs to get market-ready skills and credentials, but current performance measures focus on academic outcomes. Congress should align Perkins measures with other federal workforce investments to make it easier for states and institutions to meet industry and jobseeker needs.

CTE: IT'S NOT JUST FOR KIDS

CTE isn't just for high school students. More than four million individuals enrolled in postsecondary or adult CTE programs in 2014-2015, including 1.8 million who were economically disadvantaged. Let's make sure CTE investments help working adults get market-ready skills.



Source: Perkins Collaborative Research Network

**ACT
NOW!**

Strengthen CTE investments by aligning the Perkins Act with local and regional labor market demands