

CONTENTS OF TECH PREP PROGRAM

According to Perkins CTE Improvement Act of 2006, each tech prep program is carried out under an articulation agreement between the participants in the consortium. The agreement consists of a program of study that combines a minimum of 2 years of secondary education (as determined under State law), with a minimum of 2 years of postsecondary education in a nonduplicative, sequential course of study; or has an apprenticeship program of not less than 2 years following secondary education instruction.

Tech prep integrates academic, career, and technical education instruction, and utilizes work-based and worksite learning experiences where appropriate and available. It provides technical preparation in a career field, including high skill, high wage, or high demand occupations. As defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, tech prep builds student competence in technical skills and in core academic subjects, as appropriate, through applied, contextual, and integrated instruction, in a coherent sequence of courses. The program leads to technical skill proficiency and provides an industry recognized credential, a certificate, or a degree, in a specific career field. This leads to high placement in skill or wage employment, or to further education; and it utilizes career and technical education programs of study, to the extent practicable.

The tech prep program is developed for secondary and postsecondary education that meets academic standards developed by the State. It links secondary schools and 2-year postsecondary institutions, and if possible and practicable, 4-year institutions of higher education. This is through nonduplicative sequences of courses in career fields, the use of articulation agreements, and the investigation of opportunities for tech prep secondary education students to enroll concurrently in secondary education and postsecondary education coursework. The program should use, if appropriate and available, work-based or worksite learning experiences in conjunction with business and all aspects of an industry; and use educational technology and distance learning, as appropriate, to involve all the participants in the consortium more fully in the development and operation of programs.

In-service professional development for teachers, faculty, and administrators is also part of the tech prep program that supports effective implementation of tech prep programs. It supports joint training in the tech prep consortium, the needs, expectations, and methods of business and all aspects of an industry. Tech prep supports the use of contextual and applied curricula, instruction, and assessment; the use and application of technology; and assists in accessing and utilizing data, information available pursuant to section 118, and information on student achievement, including assessments. It also includes professional development programs for counselors designed to enable counselors to more effectively provide information to students regarding tech prep programs; support student progress in completing tech prep programs, which may include the use of graduation and career plans; provide information on related employment opportunities; ensure that students are placed in appropriate employment or further postsecondary education. Tech prep stays current with the needs, expectations, and methods of business and all aspects of an industry, and provides comprehensive career guidance and academic counseling to participating students, including special populations.

Equal access is also provided by tech prep, to the full range of technical preparation programs (including pre-apprenticeship programs), to individuals who are members of special populations. This includes the development of tech prep program services appropriate to the needs of special populations. Tech prep also provides preparatory services that assist participants in tech prep programs; and coordinate with activities conducted under title I.

ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES

Each tech prep program may provide for the acquisition of tech prep program equipment. It may acquire technical assistance from State or local entities that have designed, established, and operated tech prep programs that have effectively used educational technology and distance learning in the delivery of curricula and services.

Tech prep may establish articulation agreements with institutions of higher education, labor organizations, or businesses located inside or outside the State and served by the consortium, especially with regard to using distance learning and educational technology to provide for the delivery of services and programs. Tech prep could also improve career guidance and academic counseling for participating students through the development and implementation of graduation and career plans; and develop curriculum that supports effective transitions between secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs.

The above information was adapted from the **Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006** and can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/sectech/leg/perkins/index.html>.