

Association for Career and Technical Education  
ACTE

## Climate

- Extremely chaotic
- Highly partisan
- Activity levels
- Uncertainty on many issues

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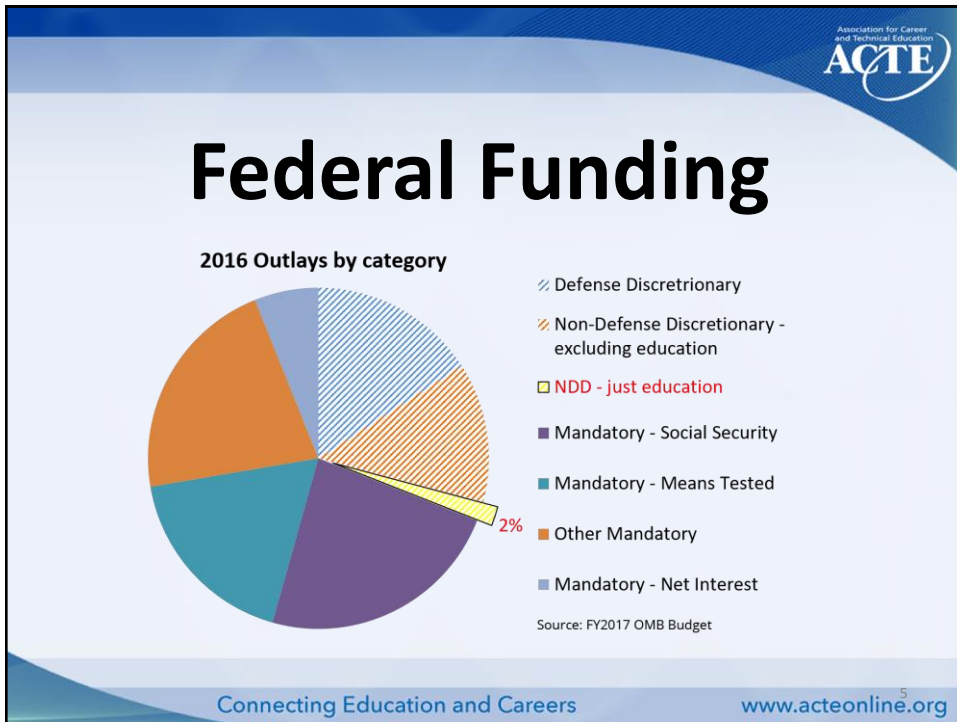
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## Broad Legislative Agenda

- Rolling back regulation
- Repealing Affordable Care Act
- Tax reform
- Border wall and other immigration issues
- Infrastructure package (possibly)

## Pending Education Issues

- Higher Education Act Reauthorization
- Perkins Act Reauthorization
- TANF reauthorization
- IDEA reauthorization
- School nutrition bill
- Veterans education benefits at area CTE centers
- Data issues: FERPA rewrite, Education Sciences Reform Act reauthorization, privacy bills, etc
- School choice proposals



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## FY 2017 Appropriations

- Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT), Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI) circulated letters to relevant subcommittees for increased Perkins funding in FY17 appropriations
  - 118 Representatives and 32 Senators signed on
- House and Senate Appropriations Committees both approved appropriations bills
  - Significant cuts to education/workforce development overall
  - Perkins level funded in both bills

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## FY 2017 Appropriations

- Congress passed 2<sup>nd</sup> CR before leaving for the winter holidays
  - Extends through the end of April
  - Requested by the incoming Administration
  - Creates uncertainty for state/local budgeting
  - Keeps across-the-board cuts in place
- Will interfere with FY 2018 budget and appropriations work that should begin early this year

## FY 2018 Appropriations

- Trump “skinny budget” released 3/16
- Proposed \$54 billion cut to domestic discretionary spending
- \$9 billion, 13.5% cut to education funding
- \$2.5 billion, 21% cut to Department of Labor Funding
- No mention of Perkins/CTE
- House “Dear Colleague” just released

# Perkins Act Reauthorization



## Perkins Overview

- 2006 Act lasted through FY 2012 (mid 2013)
- Some reauthorization activity in late 2013-early 2014
- Other priorities required attention from Hill staff – WIOA/ESSA
- House and Senate congressional attention turned to Perkins reauthorization in late October 2015

## Emerging Themes Across Efforts

- Devolution of federal oversight / authority to states and locals
- Linkages to other federal education and workforce development programs
- Stronger focus on programs' labor market alignment
- Streamlining / refocusing state and local planning requirements
- Formalizing processes to drive funding decisions (e.g. comprehensive needs assessment)
- Heightened attentiveness to equity issues as a result of election and ESSA implementation

## Senate Activity

- Senate HELP Committee members Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Bob Casey (D-PA) were leading Senate efforts
- In 2015, the HELP Committee announced eight bipartisan principles to guide their work
- Staff-level negotiations lasted most of the spring
- Politics from ESSA implementation stalled these bipartisan negotiations
- A committee draft was released in September but was not supported by either party
- Key issue for the impasse: disagreements over Secretarial authority



## Senate Reauthorization Principles

1. Make it easier for States and locals to run their CTE programs to serve all students who desire to gain access to CTE coursework, including students with disabilities
2. Increase access to, and support of, career counseling for all CTE students
3. Maintain CTE as a formula program
4. Align with ESEA and WIOA (where applicable) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the education and workforce development programs
5. Support the expansion of public/private collaborations with secondary and post-secondary programs, including alignment with State or locally-determined in-demand industries and occupations
6. Support efforts to integrate into and strengthen career pathways at the state and local levels
7. Address unfunded programs
8. Improve evaluation and research to support innovation and best practices

## House Activity

- Five Perkins-related hearings from fall 2013 to 2016
- Led to introduction of “Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act” (H.R. 5587)
  - Product of bipartisan, committee-level negotiations
  - Lead sponsors: Rep. Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA) and Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)
- Committee marked-up and approved H.R. 5587 on July 7, 2016
- Full House approved bill by a **405 – 5** margin in September

## Main Themes of H.R. 5587

- Moderate proposal largely maintaining existing structure of Perkins IV
- Alignment to other federal legislation (WIOA / ESSA)
- Strengthen CTE programs' connections to the labor market
- Significant devolution of federal authority over states; similar devolution for state-to-local

## Structure

- Current Title II and Section 118 eliminated
- Three funding streams remain:
  - Title I – Basic State Grant
  - Section 114 – National Activities
  - Section 117 – Tribally Controlled Postsecondary CTE Institutions
- Fed-to-state and state-to-local formulas remain
- Title III become Title II and includes administration provisions
- Amendments to Wagner-Peyser Act are included in Title III
- 6-year authorization period
- Authorization levels include 8.5% increase over the course of the Act



## Accountability in H.R. 5587

- New definition for “CTE Concentrator” – primary outstanding issue
- Data disaggregation and reporting requirements remain
- Ability of feds and states to withhold funds for low performance is eliminated; focus is on improvement plans and technical assistance
- Proposed Accountability Indicators:
 

<p><b><u>Secondary</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Attainment</li> <li>• Graduation</li> <li>• Placement</li> <li>• Non-trad</li> <li>• Program quality</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Postsecondary</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credential Attainment</li> <li>• Placement</li> <li>• Median Earnings</li> <li>• Non-trad</li> </ul>
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## CTE Concentrator Definition

- H.R. 5587 secondary definition:
  - Completed 3 or more CTE courses; or
  - Completed at least 2 courses in a single CTE program or CTE program of study.
- Two very distinct student populations
- Concerns around the appropriateness of the definition:
  - For validity of performance measures
  - For comparability with research and current federal and state data systems

## Local Application

- Results of the needs assessment
- Programs of study to be supported by Perkins
- Description of career guidance/counseling
- Description of activities for special populations
- Other requirements the state might add

## Needs Assessment

- At least once every two years
- List of groups to consult with regularly
- Key areas
  - Student performance
  - Size, scope and quality of programs
  - Labor market alignment
  - Programs/Programs of study implementation progress
  - Strategies for special populations
  - Improving educator recruitment, retention and training, including transition to teaching from business and industry

## Local Uses of Funds

- Career exploration and career development activities
- Professional development
- Skills necessary for students to pursue high skill, high wage occupations
- Integration of academics and CTE
- Supporting programs of study and student achievement (17 permissive activities)
- Evaluations

## Other Highlights

- State governance structure remains the same
- Expansion of state reserve fund
- State / local flexibility to meet labor market needs
- New innovation fund within National Programs
- “Hold harmless” is adjusted
- Many new definitions from WIOA and ESSA, plus “Programs of Study”

## What Now?

- House restarted effort with hearing 2/28
- Could see a bill reintroduced in the House soon
- Continued issues with ESSA implementation, as well as general partisanship are biggest threat
- Senate timing is uncertain; activity stalled



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Rep. Glenn "G.T." Thompson, PA  
Rep. Jim Langevin, RI

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### Senate Co-Chairs





Sen. Tim Kaine, VA  
Sen. Rob Portman, OH



Sen. Todd Young, IN  
Sen. Tammy Baldwin, WI




## Policy and Research Resources

- CTE Policy Watch Blog
- State Policies Impacting CTE: 2016 Year in Review
- Legislative Alerts
- Action Center
- Sector Fact Sheets
- Research-to-Practice Brief Series
- Issue Briefs
- Online Advocacy Toolkit

[www.acteonline.org/policy](http://www.acteonline.org/policy)

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