



OCTAE Connections

Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Unlocking Career Success

1. Program Memo 24-2: WIOA State Plan Guidance



The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) is pleased to announce the issuance of [Program Memo](#) 24-2: Requirements for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plans for Program Years (PY) 2024-2027. This joint policy guidance with the Department of Labor, describes the Administration's priorities, State Plan requirements, submission process, and deadline for the WIOA Unified and Combined State Plans for PYs 2024-2027, consistent with WIOA sections 102 and 103.

In accordance with WIOA, its implementing regulations, and the WIOA Unified and Combined State Plan Requirements information collection request, states must submit a four-year Unified or Combined WIOA State Plan covering PYs 2024-2027. States must submit plans by March 4, 2024, using the [WIOA State Plan Portal](#). Once submitted, the Departments will review and provide a decision within 90 days for the core programs.

Please reach out to your Area Coordinator with any questions.

2. FY 2024 Perkins State Plan – Policy Memo



We are pleased to release the [Perkins State Plan memo](#) outlining critical policy levers that states should consider through the Perkins V state planning process. As we previewed at Advance CTE's Regional Perkins Meetings this past spring, the memo is organized under four broad policy areas that span: 1) state vision and goals, 2) accountability and data, 3) program quality and alignment, and 4) formula, leadership, and reserve funds. Each policy area includes specific guidance and examples of states already implementing these policies.

We encourage state leaders to review this memo as they create and expand policies within their Perkins V state plans to improve the quality of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and help students earn postsecondary degrees and industry credentials that employers need and our economy demands.

This memo accompanies information released in a [June 30 memo](#) that covers technical items such as the statutory requirements, procedures, and state plan submission instructions for each eligible agency to receive its fiscal year (FY) 2024 Perkins V grant award. We are distributing this memo widely, including to governors and other state education and workforce leaders to support coordination with other key stakeholders and to further the work underway at your organization as you prepare for the submission of the FY 2024 Perkins state plan and the WIOA state plan.

OCTAE staff members are available to support you in your planning efforts. Please contact your Perkins Regional Coordinator if you have any questions regarding this memo or the submission requirements and procedures for your state's FY 2024 Perkins V award.

3. IET Strategies in Action - Creating Success for Diverse Populations Webinar



OCTAE and the [ADVANCE Integrated Education and Training \(IET\)](#) federal initiative are delighted to invite your state staff and local program providers to a live webinar on **IET Strategies in Action - Creating Success for Diverse Populations** on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 3:30-4:30 p.m. ET.

Representatives from the ADVANCE IET federal initiative, Alexis Cherewka from World Education, and Michelle Perry from the American Institutes for Research will share new research on promising IET practices and strategies that serve diverse learners in a variety of settings. Their emphasis will be on strategies that extend career pathways and align to postsecondary education, along with practices to support beginning level learners. Panelists currently implementing these strategies will share their experience and insights gained, providing real-world examples and practical knowledge.

This event is open to all adult educators — please share with your colleagues! You can register at this [link](#)!

We also invite you to check out the [IET Design Toolkit](#).



4. Register Today - Equity in Dual Enrollment Webinar



On behalf of Assistant Secretary Amy Loyd, we invite you to participate in OCTAE's 2023 Equity Summit Webinar Series titled **Equity in Career Connected Education: Advancing Economic Mobility**.

Prior to this series, on Feb. 2, 2022, OCTAE held the [2022 Advancing Equity in Career-Connected Education Summit](#) (Summit). This event was an important component of the Department of Education's efforts to implement [Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#). One of the goals of the

Summit was to identify themes and topics across those issue areas for further exploration, such as data, state or local roles, the role of industry, or existing systemic challenges such as misaligned incentives in adult education, career technical education, community colleges, and correctional education.

Based on what we learned from the Summit, OCTAE is hosting a series of equity webinars focusing on [dual enrollment](#), [Second Chance Pell](#), [digital literacy](#), and [career pathways](#). The next webinar in the series will be held on November 14, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. ET. This webinar will focus on equity in dual enrollment programs. We hope you will join us!

Register Here

5.New Dual Enrollment Research Fund Opens Call for Proposals: \$1 Million in Grants Available for Two-Year Projects to Answer Urgent Practice and Policy Questions

An Oct. 19 letter from the Department's Federal Student Aid office provides guidance to guarantors and educational institutions participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and Federal Perkins Loan Program (Perkins) (hereinafter "holder" or "holders") as they continue to implement Department regulations at 34 C.F.R. § 682.402(i)(1)(ii) & (iii) (FFELP) and 34 C.F.R. § 674.49(c) (Perkins). These regulations govern their actions in defending bankruptcy adversary proceedings in which borrowers seek discharge of student loans authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, including Parent PLUS loans, on the basis that excepting the loans from discharge would impose undue hardship upon the borrowers.

This letter clarifies that, in determining whether repayment of the student loan would impose an undue hardship on a borrower, a holder may fulfill its regulatory requirements by using the process outlined in the Nov.17, 2022, Department of Justice Guidance to United States Attorneys, including any revised or updated version of the Guidance issued by Justice. This letter supersedes and replaces DCL GEN-15-13.

To read the full letter, click [this link](#)!

6. Career and Technical Education Research Opportunity from the Institute of Education Sciences

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) in the U.S. Department of Education has launched a competition for grants that will support research on career development opportunities in secondary schools. It is awarding up to \$3.2 million per award to up to five research teams. Applications are due Jan.11, 2024.

Funding will be awarded to study the availability, quality, and impact of career development opportunities that support middle and high school learners. The career development opportunities may include but need not be limited to:

- CTE coursework and programs of study.
- Work-based learning.
- Career technical competency assessments (such as CTE end-of-course exams, certifications, micro credentials).
- Career advising.
- Tracking tools (such as digital credential wallets, digital transcripts, dashboards).

Each research team will conduct a two-part project: The first part (Year 1) will be devoted to the exploratory study of career development opportunities and to the development of an impact evaluation plan around at least one career development opportunity. The second part (Years 2 through 4) of the project will be devoted to conducting the impact evaluation.

The IES request for applications is available at this [link](#).

7. Correctional Education Webinar Series: Pipeline to Pell



Remember to Register for the Correctional Education Webinar Series: Pipeline to Pell

November 15, 2023 – 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

The Office of Correctional Education, in the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) invites you to participate in the Correctional Education Webinar Series entitled **Pipeline to Pell**. The webinar series focuses on advancing state and local implementation of inclusive, supportive, comprehensive, and high-quality correctional education programs that meet the diverse needs of students. The webinar sessions will provide participants with information, resources, and noteworthy practices in providing confined or incarcerated students with career-connected prison education programs.

The second webinar in the Pipeline to Pell series will be held on **Wednesday, November 15th at 3:00 pm ET**. The webinar will focus on **The Roles of States, Localities, and Other Relevant Stakeholders**.

Register today for this upcoming event! Click below to register:

[Register Here](#)

We hope you will join us! Please share with your national, state, and local networks in correctional education.