

Career and Technical Education Programs of Study Frequently Asked Questions



Programs of Study Background

1. What is a program of study?

Programs of study are course sequences that prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in their chosen career. These sequences embed relevant, real world experiences and culminate in a postsecondary credential. Programs of study offered by a Local Education Agency (LEA) must be approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) per the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V).

Programs of Study and Funding

2. How will programs of study affect state funding?

Programs of study will not affect the state Career and Technical Education (CTE) special allotment. The list of advanced level CTE courses is expected to expand which could mean additional funding for school districts.

3. How will programs of study affect federal funding?

Perkins funding may be utilized to support approved statewide and approved regional programs of study. Perkins funding may not be used to support courses that are not included in approved programs of study.

4. Will funding be provided to implement new programs of study?

Districts may use federal Perkins formula funds, CTE special allotment funds, or apply for a Perkins reserve grant. Perkins reserve grants for CTE equipment will be released in fall of 2019.

Program of Study and Accountability

5. How will programs of study affect A-F state accountability?

Programs of study are not included in the state accountability system.

6. How will programs of study affect federal accountability?

Students who are a CTE concentrator or completer will be included in federal accountability.

7. How will a concentrator be determined? A completer?

Concentrator: A student served by an LEA who has completed two or more courses for at least 2 credits in a single program of study.

Completer: A student served by an LEA who has completed 3 or more courses for 4 or more credits including an advanced course (level 3 or level 4) within an approved program of study.

These definitions will be implemented in 2020-2021.

8. How will students be identified as concentrators for 2019-2020?

While the new definitions of concentrator and completer will be as defined above, for the 2019-2020 school year the definition and coding process from Perkins IV will be utilized.

9. How many programs of study should a local education agency offer?

Perkins V legislation requires an LEA receiving Perkins funds to offer a minimum of one program of study meeting the definition of size, scope, and quality. Districts are encouraged to offer multiple high-quality CTE programs. Programs should align with the new programs of study course sequences based on statewide and local labor market data.

Programs of Study Course Sequences

10. Do the courses in a program of study need to be offered in a certain order?

Course order will be determined by recommended and required prerequisites in the TEKS. Courses should progress in content specificity.

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11. What does level 1 – 4 indicate?

Levels indicate the recommended order in which courses should be taken. Flexibility exists between levels if prerequisites are followed.

12. What courses, if any, are anticipated to be eliminated due to programs of study implementation?

No courses have been eliminated; however, not all courses are included in a statewide program of study.

Programs of Study and Endorsements

13. Do programs of study replace endorsements?

Programs of study do not replace endorsements. Programs of study should support the completion of an endorsement.

14. Do programs of study course sequences meet endorsements?

Courses included in the programs of study sequences will meet one or more endorsements, dependent upon which courses an LEA chooses to offer. We seek feedback from the field on potential changes to endorsement rules including expanding the STEM endorsement across clusters and allowing an innovative course to serve as the fourth course in a student's endorsement course sequence.

Programs of Study Implementation

15. What is the timeline for implementing changes in programs of study?

Programs of study implementation is scheduled for 2020-2021.

16. How much time will local education agencies be given to implement the new programs of study?

The programs of study will be published and announced in August 2019 for implementation in the 2020-2021 school year. Districts will have the 2019-2020 school year to plan their programs of study.

17. May an LEA only offer the statewide programs of study?

Once the statewide programs of study are approved, an LEA may apply for a regional program of study.

18. What will the regional program of study application process entail?

The application and process will be made available upon release of the approved statewide programs of study and will be similar to the innovative course application.

19. Will teacher certification requirements be updated to match the new Programs of study?

State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) determines teacher certification requirements for each CTE course. Districts should refer to TAC Chapter 231. If LEAs would like to see changes to teacher certification, we ask that during public comment stakeholders submit recommendations which we could take to (SBEC).

20. Will there be new TEKS for courses? Will programs of study have new courses or consist of currently available courses?

The initial implementation will consist of current course TEKS. Courses within programs of study listed as TBD are courses for which we would like to solicit innovative course applications from LEAs. CTE courses will be revised according to the schedule posted on the TEA website: [TEKS and Instructional Materials Working Document](#).