

PART A: STATE PLAN NARRATIVE

Introduction

Florida's State Board of Education is submitting the 2008-2013 State Plan for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, Public Law 109-270. The State Plan covers Fiscal Years 2009 through 2013 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2013). This plan is an agreement between the State of Florida and the federal government to assure the administration of career and technical education programs is consistent with both the State's goals, policies and objectives, and with the federal laws and regulations.

This plan communicates the scope of Florida's commitment to the continuous improvement of career and technical education programs and to the equitable access to quality career and technical education programs to all students, including special populations.

Florida's goals towards building an effective career and technical education system are:

- Provide access to educational opportunities to meet the workforce and economic development needs of the state
- Ensure all programs include the highest level of industry standards
- Recruit, employ, and support qualified teachers, advisors, and administrators to promote student achievement
- Integrate career and technical education and rigorous academics
- Provide aligned Programs of Study from secondary to postsecondary which result in a career path for all students
- Create and maintain effective partnerships with secondary/postsecondary education and business and industry

The Florida Department of Education establishes procedures, criteria and priorities for use in approving local agency programs of career and technical education in all areas of the state where a need exists for such programs. The professional staff of the Florida Department of Education's Division of Workforce Education provides technical assistance and consultative services to local educational agencies, community colleges, correctional institutions, and other eligible recipients under the Act. The Division of Workforce Education conducts quality assurance activities to adequately assess compliance and progress toward achieving stated goals and objectives.

Florida encourages and supports programs for career and technical education in 67 school districts (including charter schools), the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, Florida's Developmental Research Schools, 28 community colleges, Department of Juvenile Justice facilities, and various other eligible recipients. Programs for students are provided to foster challenging academic standards, promote the development of services and activities that integrate academic and career and technical instruction, and increase flexibility in providing services and activities designed to develop, implement and improve career and technical education.

Florida's career and technical education programs provide students with opportunities to develop occupational interests and acquire skills throughout their secondary and postsecondary educational experiences that will lead to gainful employment. Innovative programs throughout the state have pioneered delivery systems to improve student success, access, and achievement in all content areas through rigorous academics and real-world application of knowledge and skills embedded within the course content.

Innovative programs are identified by their novel approaches and effectiveness in meeting the needs of all students, including students with special needs, by developing career interests and aptitudes and connecting student educational experiences with clearly identified pathways to meet their educational and career goals throughout their secondary experience and beyond.

1.0 PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND COLLABORATION PRIOR TO PLAN SUBMISSION

1.1 Public Hearings [Sec. 122(a)(3)]

Upon appropriate and sufficient notice, the Division of Workforce Education conducted ten public hearings - two sessions at each site- in regionally accessible areas throughout the State. Daytime and evening sessions were scheduled at each site to assure the maximum opportunity for attendance. The locations and dates of those public hearings were:

- Broward Community College (Davie) - November 6, 2007
- Hillsborough Community College (Tampa) - November 7 & 8, 2007
- Tallahassee Community College - November 8 & 9, 2007
- Valencia Community College (Orlando) - November 15 & 16, 2007
- Florida Community College at Jacksonville - November 19, 2007

The public hearings were advertised well in advance on the Division of Workforce Education Perkins IV website and in the *Florida Administrative Weekly*. Public announcements were posted in the *Tampa Tribune*, *Tallahassee Democrat*, *Jacksonville Times-Union*, *Broward Sun-Sentinel*, *Palm Beach Post* and the *Orlando Sentinel*. The Florida Chamber of Commerce sent announcements to its communication distribution list and the *Workforce Florida Weekly* e-mail update carried the announcement. A memorandum of notification was e-mailed to each Carl D. Perkins eligible recipient in the State. In addition, the Chancellor of the Division of Community Colleges included the announcement in e-mail communication to various community college distribution lists and the Chancellor of K-12 Public Schools included the announcement in e-mail communication to various school district distribution lists, including school district superintendents.

All segments of the public and interested organizations and groups were afforded an opportunity to present their views and make recommendations regarding the State Plan. A copy of the public notice is included in Appendix A.1. For those persons unable to attend a public hearing, the draft of the 2008-2013 State Plan was available for viewing at http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/perkins/perkins_home.asp and comments and inquiries could be submitted to the Division's web page via the "comment submission tool" at <http://data.fldoe.org/cs/default.cfm?officeID=78>.

1.2 Summary and Response to Recommendations Made During the Public Comment Period [Sec. 122(a)(3)]

A feedback form was provided at each of the public hearings. A summary of recommendations received from the public during the statewide public hearings and recommendations received via the Division's web comment submission tool is included in Appendix A.2. The Division's response to those recommendations is also included in Appendix A.2.

1.3 Development of the State Plan [Sec. 122(b)(1)(A)-(B)]

The formulation and review of the State Plan for the use of federal career and technical education funds involved the active participation of all segments of the public, interested organizations and groups, and the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education.

In September, 2006, the Vice Chancellor for the Division of Workforce Education sent out an invitation to all of Florida's secondary and postsecondary educational leaders to participate and to nominate individuals to serve on various Perkins IV sub-committees. A multi-tiered committee structure was developed and was comprised of the following committees:

- State Steering Committee (SSC) - comprised of the Commissioner of Education, the Division of K-12 Public Schools Chancellor, the Division of Workforce Education Chancellor and the Division of Community Colleges Chancellor. The SSC was responsible for helping formulate the career and technical education priorities to be contained in the plan and for giving final approval to the State Plan. The Chancellor of Workforce Education was integrally involved in the development of the State Plan.
- State Advisory Committee (SAC) - comprised of statewide leaders who had chaired each of the subcommittees and Division of Workforce Education staff. The SAC itself was chaired by three people, each a representative of one of Florida's educational sectors: community college, school district postsecondary, and school district secondary. The role of the SAC was to review the recommendations from all of the sub-committees and approve or modify these recommendations prior to their submission to the State Steering Committee.
- Sub-committees – comprised of over eighty (80) secondary and postsecondary career and technical education practitioners and administrators from across the state. The sub-committees formed were: Career and Technical Education Programs; Grants; Funding; Data and Accountability; Incentives and Sanctions; and Tech Prep. Each sub-committee was charged with studying the requirements of the legislation and making specific recommendations to the State Advisory Committee relative to the needs of Florida's students.
- Planning Committee - comprised of key staff members from the Division of Workforce Education. This internal working group was responsible for supporting the work of the State Advisory Committee and the various sub-committees. In addition to providing information to each of the sub-committees, DOE staff members were assigned to work with a specific sub-committee to assure that the project plan of that sub-committee was accomplished and timelines were met.

1.4 Public and Private Participation in State and Local Decisions that Related to Development of the State Plan [Sec. 122(b)(2)]

The formulation and development of Florida's State Plan included activities and procedures to ensure that participants and entities listed in item 1.3 participated in State and local decisions in relation to the development of the State Plan. The strategies included, but were not limited to, the Division of Workforce Education Perkins IV internet site; a January 30-31, 2007 planning summit held in Orlando, Florida; monthly State Advisory Committee conference calls; and presentations at state and local meetings.

1.5 Consultation with Agencies Responsible for Secondary and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education [Sec. 122(e)(3)]

The portion of the State Plan relating to the amount and use of any funds proposed to be reserved for adult career and technical education, postsecondary career and technical education, Tech Prep education, and secondary career and technical education was developed in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor for the Division of K-12 Public Schools, the Chancellor for the Division of Workforce Education and the Chancellor for the Division of Community Colleges. These individuals served on the Perkins IV Steering Committee and approved the final State Plan sent to the State Board of Education.