



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION

October 7, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Reauthorization of the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V)* has introduced the expectation that States report on a new set of program quality indicators at the secondary level. These include the percentage of career and technical education (CTE) concentrators graduating from high school who have: (1) attained a recognized postsecondary credential; (2) earned postsecondary credits through a dual or concurrent enrollment program; (3) participated in work-based learning; and/or (4) achieved another State developed measure of success. Outcome data produced from these indicators will help to document the benefits that CTE offers students and improve programs.

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), I am pleased to announce a nationwide initiative to support implementation of these new program quality indicators. Project work will proceed in two phases:

Phase 1: Develop Technical Assistance Materials (November 2020 – August 2021)

We will convene and facilitate four Quality Indicator Workgroups (QIW)s—one for each indicator—to consider effective data collection and analysis protocols and challenges and possible solutions to issues complicating State indicator adoption. Findings will be published in a comprehensive resource guide and shared on national webinars.

Phase 2: Deliver Capacity-Building Technical Assistance (November 2021 – July 2022)

States will be invited to apply for customized technical assistance to support them in designing, implementing, and revising their quality indicators. Supports will be tailored to individual State needs and delivered free of charge by subject matter experts and interested members of the QIW)s.

This invitation is for Phase 1 of the initiative; an invitation for Phase 2 will be announced under separate cover at a later date. Phase 1 is open to all State and local-level CTE directors and staff, at secondary and postsecondary levels, with knowledge of the program quality indicators and a desire to contribute to a nationwide effort to improve their use. Specifically, we are seeking participants with situational awareness of State legislative and administrative policies; experience with the federal CTE indicators and their State's collection and reporting capacity and procedures; technical understanding of State-level database and IT system capacities; and insight into providers' program improvement needs. Individuals are encouraged to notify their State CTE director of their application and coordinate their participation to the extent practicable.

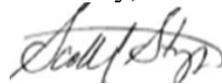
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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Workgroup members will participate in one or more of the QIWs of their choice to draft an indicator workplan and attend monthly virtual meetings to recommend options for strengthening indicator use. Expectations for QIW members' engagement and instructions on how to apply for participation are included in this communication. Please know that we recognize that you and your staff are busy and so have structured this work to maximize impact while minimizing the demands on your time.

Working together to identify and share best practices, we can ensure that all States are positioned to collect valid, reliable, and useful information.
We look forward to your involvement!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Stump". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Scott Stump
Assistant Secretary