



CTE in the Middle Grades

What does Perkins V say?

Perkins V gives states clear permission to include middle school in their Perkins supported talent development pipelines. Congress intentionally aligned Perkins V with the Every Student Succeeds Act, which defines middle grades as any of grades 5-8. Section 135 of Perkins V requires that States describe how they will provide career exploration and career development activities through an organized, systematic framework. This framework is meant to serve students from middle school, through high school and beyond, helping them make informed plans and decisions about future education and career opportunities and programs of study.

What are the questions to consider?

- How are you guiding the development and communication of career exploration opportunities for middle grade students?
 - How is your State providing an organized, systematic career exploration framework that is designed to support middle grade students prior to enrollment in career and technical education (CTE) programs? How can this system be improved?
 - How are you supporting your middle grade students who are currently participating in CTE programs?
 - How are your middle grade students and parents being supported in making informed plans and decisions about future CTE courses and programs of study?
 - What steps are you, or your State taking to inform students and parents of future career opportunities and workforce needs?
 - How effectively do your career guidance and academic counselors provide information on postsecondary education and career options?
 - What work-based learning experiences are middle grade students provided with to give them a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of an industry?
 - How effectively are your eligible recipients providing middle grade students with introductory courses or activities focused on career exploration and career awareness?
 - What support and resources are provided to middle grade students by your eligible recipients regarding the programs and activities related to the development of student graduation and career plans?
 - What steps have you taken to provide middle grade students with hands-on knowledge regarding traditional and non-traditional career fields?
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Where should I go for more information?

- *Career Readiness for All*
by Coalition For Career Development
<https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/81ac0dbc/files/uploaded/Career%20Readiness%20for%20All%20FINALV.pdf>
- *Expanding Middle School CTE to Promote Lifelong Learner Success*
by Advance CTE
https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/files/resources/AdvanceCTE_MiddleSchoolCTEReport_2018.pdf
- *Career Exploration in Middle School: Setting Students on the Path to Success*
by ACTE
https://www.acteonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ACTE_CC_Paper_FINAL.pdf