

Program of Study for Secondary and Postsecondary Technical Skill Attainment and Assessment Development

Executive Summary

Programs of Study is a critical component of Perkins IV as a way to achieve a new vision for CTE by more consistently and thoroughly connecting secondary and postsecondary education. The focus for this year's Program of Study grant will be to build upon and strengthen previous years' work.

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is partnering with community colleges and secondary schools to provide funding and resources for development of model Programs of Study. Each grant will establish or strengthen Statewide Program Management Committees within one of the 16 National Career Clusters. Subcommittees may be established to address Pathway(s) within a cluster.

Work will include developing Technical Skill Attainment and Assessments for secondary schools and community colleges within the 16 Federal Career Clusters. Each Program of Study model developed by a grant award will focus efforts on adopting statewide standards, including recommending a course sequence featuring career ladders that are attractive to students. Each of Iowa's community colleges and secondary schools will team to work on developing and implementing a model Program of Study for statewide use by schools and colleges.

Problem Statement

The DE recognizes that CTE programs throughout the state have been challenged in their efforts to develop Programs of Study under Perkins IV. Local programs and regional consortiums have struggled to bring together industry subject matter experts on advisory committees and to muster the resources to establish standards, critical competencies, and technical skill assessments required for Programs of Study. School financial issues have exacerbated these undertakings.

Project Description

This year's Program of Study RFP is an effort to efficiently use Perkins Reserve Funds in a statewide focus to create Program of Study models that:

- Establish/Strengthen Statewide Program Management Committees for each Cluster area to manage program standards, technical skill assessments, and develop shared resources.
- Establish a Program of Study/TSA Continuum Process.
- Assist each secondary school and community college in continuing to build Programs of Study using the six specific requirements outlined in the framework established in the DE Program of Study Guidance (issued in February 2011).
- Develop statewide capacity for coordinating shared development and resources for CTE programs.
- Continue POS efforts by building from what CTE programs have developed thus far.