

Carl D. Perkins Grant Regulations and Allowable Costs Guidance



**Office of Career-Technical
Education
FY2026**



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

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Carl D. Perkins Grant

The purpose of funding under the [Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century \(Perkins V\) Act](#) is to greater develop the academic knowledge and employability skills of secondary and postsecondary education students who elect to enroll in career and technical education programs. Perkins funds must be used to support the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce approved career-technical education programs.

This is not a complete list of allowable and unallowable costs as it relates to the Carl D. Perkins grant. The allowability of an expenditure should be determined by the recipients identified needs on their Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and any pertinent [Federal Cost Principles guidelines](#).

Career-technical education is about career preparation through industry-driven programming and learning opportunities. The goal is to have the same equipment and tools that industry professionals use. Learning opportunities should include the same functions that industry professionals perform. However, for a cost to be allowable, it must be necessary to complete the activities within the grant and meet the standards outlined in [§200.403](#) on factors affecting the allowability of costs.

Uses of Carl D. Perkins Funds

Each eligible recipient that receives funds under this part shall use such funds to develop, coordinate, implement or improve career-technical education programs to meet the needs identified in the CLNA described in section 134(c) of Perkins V.

The six requirements¹ for the use of funds are:

1. Career Exploration and career development activities through an organized systematic framework;
2. Professional development for career-technical education professionals;
3. Provide within career-technical education the skills necessary to pursue high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand sectors or occupations;
4. Support integration of academic skills into career-technical education programs and programs of study;
5. Plan to carry out elements that support implementation of career-technical education program and programs of study that result in increased student achievement; and
6. Develop and implement an evaluation of the activities funded by Perkins including evaluations necessary to complete the comprehensive needs assessment.

The Office of Career-Technical Education aims to offer technical assistance support regarding Perkins-related matters. Please contact your education program specialist if you have any questions. The following guidelines have been developed as a quick reference:

¹ Perkins V Local Uses of Funds § 135(a)(b) (1)-(6).

ADMINISTRATIVE & INDIRECT COSTS

Administration is defined as “activities necessary for proper and efficient performance of eligible agency or eligible recipient’s duties under this act.” and includes Approved indirect costs are considered administrative costs and must be included in the 5% limitation. Both direct and indirect costs represent those costs incurred to administer the grant strategies. For additional guidance on indirect costs see the Grants Administration Indirect Costs page.

CTE SALARIES AND BENEFITS

Perkins V can be used to pay for CTE teacher salaries if the funding is used to:

- **Support new CTE programs, expand, or improve existing CTE program instructors**
 - For launching a new CTE pathway, or expanding or improving an existing pathway, new CTE teachers and instructional staff can be paid with Perkins funds for up to three years.
- **Support part-time or supplemental instructional staff**
 - Specific projects or program enhancement like College Credit Plus or specialized industry certification offered in an approved CTE program of study.
- **Provide stipends for extra duties**
 - Curriculum development, training, after-school CTE-related activities, CTSO advisors may potentially receive stipends.
- **Serve special populations**
 - Salaries for teachers or aides specifically hired to support underrepresented groups within CTE like Intervention Specialists or English Learner Instructors are allowable.
- **Provide career or work-based learning counseling**
 - Salaries for a new career counselor or work-based learning coordinators are allowable as long as the position is new and there is no supplanting.

INITIAL TEACHER TUITION COSTS

The initial teacher license costs are considered an allowable expense under the guidance of [United States Department of Education](#), which supports the expansion of career-technical education programs. Career-technical planning districts can use these funds to support teacher preparation programs aimed at preparing individuals to become career-technical education instructors. This change in law includes individuals with professional experience in business and industry who are looking to transition into teaching roles. However, Perkins funds are specifically designated for career technical educators and cannot be used for academic teachers or ongoing education of already licensed instructors.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Training for CTE teachers, administrators, and support staff on effective teaching strategies, integrating academic and technical instruction, and using technology in the classroom are allowable costs of Perkins.

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

Purchasing modern equipment and supplies is needed to ensure students are trained on industry-standard tools. Equipment is defined as a tangible, nonexpendable, personal

property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit.

Allowable furniture must be specific to training for a particular career field. Examples of permissible expenses of furniture used for the delivery of CTE are a barber's chair or a medical bed. The purchase of desks, filing cabinets, or shelving, are not permissible uses of Perkins funding.

Supplies are defined as tangible, nonexpendable, personal property that is less than \$9,999 and used for the delivery of CTE. Examples of supplies are curriculum, textbooks, workbooks, and other resources needed for delivery of CTE courses.

General-use supplies and equipment that are not used specifically for the delivery of CTE programs of study are not allowable.

WORK-BASED LEARNING TRANSPORTATION

Supporting internships, job shadowing, apprenticeships, and other work-based learning opportunities aligned with approved CTE programs.

Work-Based Learning transportation is allowable if it is directly related to a CTE program's approved work-based learning experience, such as internships, clinicals, apprenticeships, job shadowing, industry site visits tied to classroom instruction.

Work-Based Learning transportation is allowable if it supports access for students from rural or economically disadvantaged areas, students in special populations groups defined by Perkins V and if the cost is reasonable and necessary and clearly documented as supporting CTE program goals.

Transportation is not an allowable cost of Perkins funds if the transportation is for non-CTE activities, such as general field trips or extracurriculars not tied to WBL or instruction, it is used to supplant general district transportation responsibilities, or the work-based learning experience is not part of an approved CTE program of study.

CAREER-TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (CTSO)

Perkins permits the use of grant funds to support CTSOs and related activities if the organization is an integral part of a career-technical education program. All students in the approved CTE program of study must be participating in membership.

Transportation costs for students attending CTSO competitions may be allowable only if the activity is part of the CTE program, necessary, reasonable, and documented. The competition must align with curriculum objectives and be accessible to all eligible students.

Individual student memberships for CTSOs are not allowable.

DATA & PROGRAM EVALUATION

Software or data programs that collect and analyze data on CTE program performance and outcomes to drive continuous improvement are allowable costs through Perkins.

General-use software or data programs that support non-CTE related students are not allowable.

UNIFORMS & CLOTHING

Uniforms or clothing that is specific to an occupation and will remain in the classroom or laboratory, including lab coats, coveralls, gloves, etc., are permissible expenses.

Personalized uniforms or clothing that benefit an individual student are not allowable costs of Perkins.

PROMOTION & MARKETING

Communications, marketing, and promoting CTE programs through publications and advertisements is a permissible use of Perkins funds.

Perkins Unallowable Uses

Please note that the unallowable expenses listed here do not represent an exhaustive list. Additional costs may be deemed unallowable based on federal regulations, state guidance, or specific grant requirements. When in doubt, consult the applicable grant rules or contact your program administrator for clarification.

Perkins funds cannot be used for:

- General education programs
- Construction or renovation of facilities
 - Activities such as construction and remodeling, which increase the value of an asset or appreciably extend its useful life, are not allowed with federal funds. For example, the cost of mounted equipment, part of a building, or building greenhouses, is not permissible uses of Perkins funding.
- Entertainment, meals, or awards for students
- Salaries for administrative staff not directly tied to CTE
- Buying land or buildings

Notice of Supplanting

SEC. 211-Fiscal Requirements of the Perkins V Guidelines indicates that “funds made available under this Act for career and technical education activities shall supplement and shall not supplant non-Federal funds (local or state funds) expended to carry out career and technical education activities.”

Supplanting occurs when federal dollars replace what is typically paid for by local or state dollars to support career-technical education programs and activities. Federal funds cannot be used to pay for services, staff, programs or materials that have previously been paid for with state or local funds. Grant recipients must monitor expenditures to ensure that Perkins funds are not supplanting the general requirements of the local educational agencies. This law is designed to ensure that Perkins funds pay for something extra and not the day-to-day operational costs.