The Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act (Act 2015-3, Section 4) indicates:

A public charter school formed pursuant to Act 2015-3 provides an educational program that satisfies all of the following:

- Includes any grade or grades from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade.
- May include a specific academic approach or theme, including, but not limited to, career and technical training or science, mathematics, and technology.
- Operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives as defined in its charter contract, such as college and career readiness.
- Operates under the oversight of its authorizer in accordance with its charter contract.

Career and Technical Education

Charter schools are public schools of choice as provided by the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act (Act 2015-3). Families and community members are welcomed in public charter schools and are treated as partners in their child's education. Because public charter schools are designed to offer innovative educational strategies, some may be uniquely situated to provide a specialized focus in career and technical education (CTE) and training.

Purpose of Federal and State Career and Technical Education Funding

- The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV), which took effect in Program Year (PY) 2007 (beginning July 1, 2007), is the principal source of federal funding to states for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs. The funds are supplemental to state funds and are used to support high-quality career and technical education programs.
- Alabama determines the amount of funds for each local recipient based on secondary and postsecondary allocation formulas that are described in Sections 131 and 132 of Perkins IV.
- In addition to federal funds, Alabama supports career and technical education by providing Operation and Maintenance funds (O & M) to support programs for consumable materials for which federal dollars cannot be used. These funds are provided by a formula based upon the number of career and technical education teachers. Alabama provides funding for career and technical education teachers through the state foundation program.

Definition of Career and Technical Education

- Perkins IV defines career and technical education as organized educational activities that offer a sequence of courses that provides individuals with the academic and technical knowledge and skills the individuals need to prepare for further education and for careers in current or emerging employment sectors.
Career and technical education includes competency-based applied learning that contributes to students’ academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills, and occupation-specific skills.

Career and technical education funds may be used for professional development for teachers, counselors, and administrators in career and technical education.

Career and technical education is offered in middle schools, high schools, community and technical colleges, and in other postsecondary institutions.

A public charter school providing CTE is not required by the provisions in Sections 131 and 132 of Perkins IV to take any additional steps to establish its eligibility beyond the requirements already imposed by a state. Thus, a public charter school that is considered a local education agency (LEA) by the state would be eligible if it provided CTE and otherwise meets the requirements of Act 2015-3 unless other provisions in state law would prohibit its participation. Public charter schools providing CTE programs can receive funds just as any other qualifying school as long as programs offered are of sufficient size, scope, and quality to be effective.

The term “charter school” has the meaning given the term in Section 5210 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. It should be noted that any newly created public school must be just that—it cannot be a continuation of a private school under a different guise. The public charter school must be separate and apart from any private school. It must be established as a public school and comply with applicable state and federal laws regarding public schools. In its creation, development, and operation, the charter school must not have any affiliation “with a sectarian school or religious institution” (S5210(1)(E) of ESEA).

NOTE: Act 2015-3, Section 2(c), specifically prohibits a private or nonpublic school from establishing a public charter school in Alabama.

Allowable Uses of Perkins IV Funds

Section 135 of Perkins IV describes required and permissible uses for funds by local recipients.

**Required Uses of Perkins Funds**

- Conducting an assessment of the career and technical education programs funded under Perkins IV.
- Developing, improving, or expanding the use of technology in career and technical education.
- Offering professional development programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels.
- Integrating academics with career and technical education.
- Providing preparation for non-traditional fields in current and emerging professions.
- Supporting partnerships among local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, adult education providers, and other entities to enable students to achieve state academic standards and career and technical skills or complete career and technical programs of study.
- Serving individuals in state institutions.
- Providing support for programs for special populations that lead to high-wage and high-demand occupations.
- Offering technical assistance for eligible recipients.

**Related Permissible Uses of Perkins Funds**

- Supporting public charter schools operating career and technical education programs.
Carl D. Perkins and Accountability


Each state must annually report to the Secretary the progress of the State in achieving the state-adjusted levels of performance on the core indicators of performance, including the levels of performance achieved by the special population categories described in Section 3(29) of Perkins IV and other student categories described in Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of ESEA (20 USC 6311(h)(1)(C)(i)) (Section 10 113(c) of Perkins IV (20 USC 2323(c))).

Each LEA or other subrecipient (public charter school) negotiates with the state local-adjusted performance levels (i.e., targets) for each core indicator for each program year (Sections 113(b)(4)(A)(iii) and (iv) of Perkins IV (20 USC 2323 (b)(4)(A)(iii) and (iv))). Each LEA’s or other subrecipient’s (public charter school) local-adjusted performance levels are incorporated into the local plan required by Section 134 before approval by the state.

Secondary Level
- Attainment of academic skills – reading/language arts
- Attainment of academic skills – mathematics
- Technical skill attainment
- School completion
- Student graduation rates
- Placement
- Nontraditional participation
- Nontraditional completion

NOTE: This working document “highlights” some key career and technical education components in the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act (Act 2015-3). It does not attempt to address all content specific to career and technical education/workforce development laws, rules, and regulations. The preliminary guidance provided in this working document will be updated as the Alabama State Department of Education develops specific guidance regarding Alabama public charter schools. Please send questions to pcs@alsde.edu.