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Legislative Alert: June 30, 2016



Congress rolls up its sleeves on Career and Technical Education bill

Congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle introduced the “Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act” on Tuesday. The legislation is an important first step toward reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, which passed in 1984 and was last reauthorized in 2006.

As introduced, the bill provides much-needed flexibility to:

- Better use federal funds to respond to changing education and economic demands.
- Prepare students from all backgrounds to be successful in careers requiring advanced technical skills.
- Reduce red tape and make it easier for districts to access and administer federal programs.

“This well-engineered and robust reauthorization aims to close our nation’s skills gap by creating clear pathways to education and training for students eager to pursue careers in vital technical fields,” committee member Rep. Glenn “GT” Thompson, R-Penn., said at the bill’s introduction. Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., also a committee member, added: “Every student deserves a fair chance to earn the skills needed to thrive in the modern workforce.”

Colorado school districts have been leaders in the area of Career Technical Education. These programs have helped thousands of students across the state. The reauthorization of the Perkins Act is a key plank in CASB’s Federal Relations Network advocacy platform.

While no members from Colorado’s congressional delegation serve on the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education subcommittee, it is important that CASB members contact their representatives and ask them to support the bill.

[Contact Colorado’s members of Congress.](#)

This is the [text of the bill](#). View the [bill summary from the Education and the Workforce Committee](#).

Address **Colorado Association of School Boards**
2253 S. Oneida St., Ste. 300
Denver, CO 80224

Phone
303-832-1000 or 800-530-8430

Fax
303-832-1086

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