

Afterschool: Career and Technical Education



The core afterschool CTE message is:

The new career and technical education law presents a critical opportunity for afterschool and CTE programs to partner and expand learning opportunities for kids. Afterschool programs help students of all ages explore careers and develop skills employers demand.

This document provides messaging guidance to help afterschool state leaders connect their work to the federal CTE law and maximize new funding opportunities.

Background

The federal CTE law, *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (Perkins V) passed in 2018, opened up new opportunities for afterschool programs to partner with states and districts to help students prepare for future careers.

Under Perkins V, the Department of Education will award about \$1.2 billion to states for expanding educational pathways and opportunities that will prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, and in demand jobs in their communities. To receive funding, each state is required to consult with stakeholders and community members to develop a 4-year plan and statewide vision for career readiness. The plans are due April 2020. This presents a major opportunity for state afterschool leaders to step into the planning process, create new partnerships and expand high-quality programs.

Messages

The table on the following pages highlights important components of the new law and messages that demonstrate the connection to afterschool for each. We encourage you to keep your language clear and simple. Tailor the messages to highlight local examples or outcomes from successful CTE partnerships in your state. Remember that overall, the terms “children,” “kids,” and “students” can be used interchangeably, with a slight preference among our key audiences for the use of “students” in an educational context.



Theme that unites afterschool and CTE	Learning happens across times and places	Partnerships are critical	Effective career exposure starts early and is diverse
<p>How theme shows up in the new CTE legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The U.S. Department of Education is encouraging states to “rethink” CTE by “Promoting innovative practices to reshape where, when, how, and to whom CTE is delivered.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Requires a stakeholder engagement process including “interested community representatives, including parents, students, and community organizations.” ✓ Allows intermediaries, like community partners, to connect the school with broader opportunities. ✓ Explicitly lists partnerships with community-based and youth-serving organizations as eligible uses of local funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Federal CTE funding can now be used for grades 5 and up. ✓ Students can be introduced to and have experiences with career pathways and the breadth of career options before they get to high school.
<p>Messages to make the connection to afterschool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Afterschool programs expand learning opportunities to help students explore different careers and prepare for the jobs of tomorrow. ✓ Time in afterschool—about 1,080 hours per year or the equivalent of 144 school days—can be used to help kids explore careers, build skills and gain hands-on experience through work-based learning, job shadowing, mentorships and internships. ✓ Learning doesn’t just happen in school. Students in elementary through high school spend more than 80% of their time learning outside of school—in afterschool and summer programs, libraries, museums, science centers, at home or in the community. ★ <i>Fun Fact: 75% of Nobel Scientists say their passion for their work was first sparked during out-of-school time.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Afterschool programs have expertise leveraging resources from multiple community partners, including businesses, parents, libraries, schools, parks, museums, food providers and health centers. ✓ State and local partnerships between CTE and afterschool have successfully leveraged resources to create comprehensive programs and curricula that would not be possible working alone. ✓ Each state has a well-connected afterschool network that can act as a coordinating hub as states develop their plans. ★ <i>Fun Fact: A typical 21st CCLC afterschool program receives \$67,000 in matching contributions and works with 9 additional partners.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Innovative afterschool programs introduce students of all ages—from elementary to middle and high schoolers—to new interests and a wide range of careers, including in STEM fields. ✓ Afterschool programs partner with businesses, parents and other volunteers to expose young people to professional mentors, work-site visits and real-world problem solving that prepares them for future careers. ✓ For example, elementary students take part in coding, welding or other career-themed clubs; middle schoolers practice mock interviews with local professionals and participate in engineering or research camps with area colleges; high schoolers earn internship credits through real, on the job, paid experiences with local businesses. ★ <i>Fun Fact: Afterschool programs sometimes call this work positive youth development, and have frameworks, observational tools, and surveys to ensure they are using research based best practices.</i>

Theme that unites afterschool and CTE	Employability skills matter	Career learning means real experience and transferable skills and credits	For every occupation, our workforce and leadership can look more like our communities
How theme shows up in the new CTE legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Emphasis on employability skills (like collaboration, communication and problem solving) which businesses rank in high demand is expected in CTE plans and implementation efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ CTE pathways value stackable credentials and transferable skills that help students in the next steps of their education and career. ✓ In the law, this can be done through tracking graduation rates, dual enrollment (earning college credits in high school), obtaining nationally or industry recognized certificates, credentials, and/or work-based learning experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increasing minority participation in underrepresented career fields. ✓ Increasing participation by gender in non-traditional fields (where more than 75% of workers are one gender such as women in nursing, or men in computer science).
Messages to make the connection to afterschool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration, critical thinking and communication are at the heart of project-based learning in afterschool programs. Students are given the space, time and flexibility to grow these foundational skills that that employers demand. ✓ For example, many programs allow students to identify a local issue, research it, listen to community stakeholders, innovate a solution and advocate for their solution outside of school walls. ★ <i>Fun Fact: About 7 in 10 parents say afterschool programs support children with workforce skills, such as team work, leadership and critical thinking.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Afterschool programs offer unique, flexible and creative environments that give students extra time to focus on learning and skills that help them advance their own career pathway. ✓ Programs partner with schools and businesses to help students gain credentials, earn college credits, and participate in apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities. ✓ Kids in afterschool also are more likely to experience on time grade promotion and graduation. ★ <i>Fun Fact: Students in afterschool programs can earn wages and gain credit towards degrees and/or certifications. For example, students in uncommon Construction in Louisiana earn 120 hours of paid job apprenticeship training toward their degree through partnerships between school and afterschool.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Afterschool programs serve a significant number of young people from low-income and racially diverse backgrounds. ✓ Programs can play a key role in promoting opportunity and equity in employment fields where minorities and women are traditionally under-represented, such women in STEM. ✓ Afterschool provides the space for students from all backgrounds to gain confidence and experience in high-demand fields and emerging areas. ★ <i>Fun Fact: Programs like Girls Who Code are breaking barriers during out of school time. Of participants who've declared majors, the rate of computer science majors is 15 times higher than the national average!</i>