

AGENDA

State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO)

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
26 Corporate Hill Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205

April 3, 2008
10:30 a.m.

- TAB A Action Item – Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2008
- TAB B Action Item – State Plan for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006

Director's Report

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF WORKFORCE EDUCATION
AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

February 7, 2008

Chairman Jack Justus called a meeting of the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) to order at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, 26 Corporate Hill Drive, Little Rock at 9:30 a.m.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Jack Justus, Chairman	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mr. Phil Taylor	None
Mrs. Kathy Scarsdale	
Mrs. Martha Dixon	
Mr. Richard Smith	
Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary	

ABSENT

Mr. Robert McClanahan	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mrs. Lucy Ralston	Dr. Steve Floyd, Interim
	Dr. Ken James

Mr. Justus informed the board members that Mr. McClanahan has submitted his resignation due to health issues. Mr. Justus asked that a letter be prepared for Mr. McClanahan expressing our gratitude for his years of service.

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF December 10, 2007

On motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mrs. Scarsdale, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the minutes of December 10, 2007.

B. ACTION ITEM – STATE PLAN FOR THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. John Davidson, deputy director of career and technical education recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve placing the draft of the five-year State Plan for Perkins on public review.

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) was signed by President Bush on August 12, 2006. A one-year transition plan was submitted for the 2007-08 fiscal year. A five-year stat plan is due by April 2008 to the U.S. Department of Education.

Mr. Davidson advised the board that the state is required to hold at least two public

hearings and to gather input from many constituent groups prior to submission of the state plan. Four public hearings are scheduled as follows:

February 26 at 10:00 a.m. – Public hearing in North Little Rock (Pulaski Tech College)
March 4 at 10:00 a.m. – Public hearing in West Helena (Great Rivers Coop)
March 7 at 10:00 a.m. – Public hearing in Arkadelphia (Dawson Coop)
March 11 at 2:00 p.m. – Public hearing in Harrison (North Arkansas College)

The five-year state plan is an expansion of the transition plan that was approved by the board last year. It includes several sections that were not required last year including professional development, recruitment and retention of CTE teachers, and coordination with economic development and other federal programs.

Mr. Davidson touched on some of the policy decisions contained within the five-year plan:

Consolidation of the Tech Prep funding into the Basic State Grant
In-State Distribution of Funds
Projects/activities approved for funding at the local level
Reserve of up to 10% from the local funds for state priorities or focus areas
\$60,000 for support of nontraditional programs
1% of the state leadership funds for state institutions
Accountability and continuous improvement
Incentives, Sanctions, and Improvement Plans
Program and fiscal monitoring, including high risk recipients

On motion by Mr. Taylor and second by Mr. Smith, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously voted to approve that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities place the draft of the five-year State Plan for Perkins on public review.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bill Walker reported on the following items:

Mr. Davidson gave a brief review of the letter of monitoring that the agency received for the Career and Technical Education Federal Audit.

Discussed comments that were received from the CTE Program of Study Workshop, which was held on February 5-6, 2008.

Advised the board members of a potential problem in the Jefferson County area with some factious GED transcripts. It was brought to our attention and we did our own internal investigation and have been in touch with the local prosecutor in Jefferson County and the Governor's Office. What we have been able to determine so far is that someone created a false GED certificate and was selling them. We do not know how widespread this is we just now of these two incidents at this time. A reminder has been sent out as to the proper way a GED certificate or transcript is to be issued and verified.

Informed the board that this administration asked us to come up with a preliminary budget and budget request and that it be submitted to them by middle of this month.

Therefore, we are in the process of putting together the White Papers, which will be a little bit more detailed than has been done in the past.

Handed out a letter that was just received from the U.S. Department of Education on the issue of the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Hot Springs.

Announced that we have hired a new Federal Surplus Property Manager, Mr. Duane Bell.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Justus adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

William L "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary
State Board of Workforce Education
and Career Opportunities

Jack Justus, Chairman
State Board of Workforce Education
and Career Opportunities



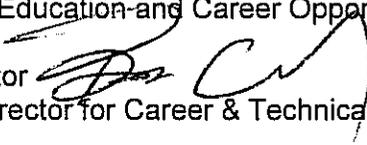
Department
of Workforce Education

Mike Beebe
Governor

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Director

April 3, 2008

TO: State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

FROM: Senator Bill Walker, Director 
John Davidson, Deputy Director for Career & Technical Education 

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEM – STATE PLAN FOR THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER
AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

ACTION RECOMMENDED: It is recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve the five-year State Plan for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) was signed by President Bush on August 12, 2006. A one-year transition plan was submitted for the 2007-08 fiscal year. A five-year state plan is due by April 2008 to the U.S. Department of Education that will cover the period of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2013.

The state was required to hold at least two public hearings and to gather input from many constituent groups prior to submission of the state plan. Four public hearing were scheduled; however, one had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. In addition to comments received at the hearings, one written comment was submitted.

- February 26 in North Little Rock at Pulaski Tech College
 - \$600,000 for the secondary reserve fund may not be sufficient.
 - Successful strategies employed by various districts should be shared with all recipients.
 - The actual number of students in disaggregated data for special population groups may be too small to be significant.

Staff also responded to questions regarding students that are eligible to be served; DWE's plan for monitoring and technical assistance; reimbursement procedures and expenditures that cross fiscal years; deadlines for submission of local plan and application; and three-year professional development plans.

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- March 4 in West Helena at Great Rivers Coop
 - None

Staff responded to questions on how to involve secondary area career centers in local Perkins projects and to specific questions on approvable expenditures.

- March 11 in Harrison at North Arkansas College
 - Small districts are restricted by the high wage, high demand, and high skill requirement for program improvement.

Staff also responded to concerns on assessment of special population students and the request for written examples of projects that were approved for Perkins this year.

- Written comment received during the public comment period
 - I would encourage the state leadership team to give careful consideration to the narrow scope of program improvement activities that will be allowed if we strictly adhere to the requirement for high skills and high wage and high demand as the criteria for approval. I think this will cause us to miss the mark, so to speak. I refer back to John's PowerPoint information that indicates that we are preparing a workforce for jobs that don't yet exist and for technologies that have not yet been invented. I think one of the serious problems we are facing in the US today is that, as a whole, we have been asleep while the rest of the world has been moving into a new era. I think we should give serious consideration to the types of programs that promote the most universally applicable skills and knowledge and that will help workers to better transition into new technologies and jobs. As quickly as things are now changing we could spend a lot of time and resources training people for jobs that are high demand today but that are no longer in demand by the time our students get into the work force. As the saying goes, "in a world of change the learned will find themselves beautifully equipped for a world which no longer exists while the learners will inherit the earth". We need to focus on life-long learning skills and occupational areas that best fit this model and less on a narrow range of specific occupations.

Agency Response

Comment: \$600,000 for the secondary reserve fund may not be sufficient.

Response: Although 10% of the local funds are allowed to be set aside by the state for the reserve fund, in 2007-08 the Department chose to set aside \$600,000 (or about 7%) of the secondary allocation. In the 2008-09 fiscal year, secondary will again set aside \$600,000 (which is almost 8%) of the local allocation into the reserve fund. The percentage increased (although the amount did not) because the overall state grant was less than the previous year. Postsecondary chose not to use the reserve in 2007-08 or

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2008-09. The State Plan allows the state to review funding levels and to reserve up to the full 10% each year as appropriate. No change in the State Plan is required.

Comment: Successful strategies employed by various districts should be shared with all recipients.

Response: DWE has already taken steps to ensure that information on successful projects is made available to all recipients. In addition, the evaluation criteria used by Department staff to approved projects will be more fully communicated at the Perkins workshop in April. This is a specific inservice training need and does not require any change in the State Plan.

Comment: The actual number of students in disaggregated data for special population groups may be too small to be significant.

Response: Secondary districts should use the same criteria as used by the state's NCLB plan for public reporting requirements. Postsecondary institutions should use the reporting policies they have in place to protect individual student identity. The following statement has been added to the Accountability and Evaluation section of the State Plan: "As required by the Act, local recipients must report performance results to the public in a variety of methods including electronically. However, all reports of performance should follow established guidelines that protect individual student identity."

Comment: Small districts are restricted by the high wage, high demand, and high skill requirement for program improvement.

Response: Perkins funds can be used to improve the performance of students in any program of study or support course (such as JAG or Internship). No change in the State Plan is recommended.

Comment: Give serious consideration to the types of programs that promote the most universally applicable skills and knowledge and that will help workers to better transition into new technologies and jobs. Focus on life-long learning skills and occupational areas that best fit this model and less on a narrow range of specific occupations.

Response: Perkins IV (and this state plan) does push the state toward broader career preparation through the career cluster model. The section of this state plan describing the programs that will be developed and improved discusses this movement and model. No change in the State Plan is required.