

**CARL D. PERKINS ACT OF 1998 FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CAREER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF MONTANA**
FY BUDGET 2002-03

The Carl D. Perkins federal allocation for Montana to support secondary and postsecondary career and technical education in Montana increased from \$5,268,996 to \$5,652,196, an increase of \$383,200. Tech Prep was increased from \$519,374 to \$529,173, an increase of \$9,799. The fund for local grants is split as follows: Secondary 65% and Postsecondary 35% (Attachment: FY2003 Budget).

ATTAINMENT OF STATE PERFORMANCE LEVELS

Title I programs (Perkins Act) exceeded their performance levels as established through negotiations with the Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education. In order to qualify for the Incentive Grant program, a state must have exceeded performance levels, agreed to by the Secretaries, Governor, and State Education Officer for outcomes in WIA Title I, Adult Education (AEFLA) and vocational education (Perkins Act) programs. Montana did not meet the qualifications to apply for this incentive grant award. Twelve states met this requirement. In Montana both Perkins and AEFLA qualified (Attachment: Federal Register Announcement).

REAUTHORIZATION OF PERKINS

The Carl D. Perkins Act of 1998 is to be reauthorized in 2004. The U.S. Department of Education is taking comment on reauthorization at this time in order to have an outline of the bill to Congress by this coming fall. My staff and I are working with the Office of Public Instruction, local Project Directors and other recipients to discuss issues such as accountability, funding distribution, State Leadership, eligible agency structure, and Tech Prep. As State Director, I will provide commentary gathered through this process for submittal to the U.S. Department of Education for inclusion in the reauthorization process.

PERKINS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In meeting the legislative requirement of Senate Bill 425, the Perkins State Plan Advisory Committee has been convened and has established its charge: *The guiding purpose of the Perkins Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education on how Perkins funds can best be used to improve the quality, scope, variety, and accessibility of career and vocational/technical education and training opportunities in Montana.* This committee will also seek input from their community of interest regarding the reauthorization of Perkins for inclusion in Montana's comments to the U.S. Department of Education.

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May 23, 2002