



The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

The undersigned members of the College in High School Alliance write to you today to advocate on behalf of inclusion of robust provisions in reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act that support the growth of dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school. The College in High School Alliance is a coalition of leading national, state, and local organizations committed to policies that support these high-quality programs. The CHSA believes that greater support for these models at the federal, state, and local levels will significantly improve the secondary and postsecondary outcomes of students, particularly those from low-income or middle-class backgrounds and underserved populations.

Reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act provides an important opportunity to build upon the existing work done to date in expanding access to career pathways and CTE programs of study in schools. Both programmatic frameworks integrate rigorous academics with sequenced, high-quality career and technical education courses designed to lead to career opportunities in high-demand industries. Dual and concurrent enrollment and early college designs offer significant benefits when combined with this kind of career-focused programming, allowing students interested in career-focused programming to make progress toward an industry-recognized credential or degree while still in high school. More than one-third of dual enrollment credits earned by high school students are in a career and technical education course and that figure may be larger as many core academic dual enrollment courses can count towards a student's CTE program of study. Leading states such as Illinois, Iowa, Oregon, and Utah have 40 to 50 percent of their dual and concurrent enrollments in career and technical subjects, such as health care, engineering and technology, business, transportation/logistics, and computer and information science.

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (H.R. 2353,) which was recently passed by the House, includes significant new provisions to expand the ability of school districts and institutions of higher education to partner together to offer college-level career and technical education (CTE) courses to high school age students. We encourage the Senate to include those provisions in its own bill, including:

- Adding dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school to the definition of "Career and Technical Education;"

- Adding dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school to the definition of “Career Guidance and Academic Counseling;”
- Aligning the definitions of dual and concurrent enrollment and early college high school with their definitions in the Every Student Succeeds Act;
- Requiring the state to include in its State Plan how it will make opportunities available for secondary school students to participate in dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school;
- Including dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school as a permissible use for incentive grants as part of State Leadership Activities; and
- Allowing local funds to be used to support dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school.

In addition to the provisions within the House bill, we also encourage the Senate to add dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school as an explicit allowable funding option for grants authorized under the National Activities program.

We also join other stakeholders in requesting that the Senate consider alternative definitions of a secondary CTE concentrator for the required performance indicators, as the definition included in H.R. 2353 combines two distinct student populations – explorers and concentrators – that will not yield useful data. We were pleased to see that the definition for the purposes of the optional indicator on participation in dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school was amended, but if the definition in the House bill is maintained for the required performance indicators it will severely limit the ability of state and local leaders to assess the performance of CTE programs and guide future policy.

We strongly support the Senate moving towards expeditious consideration of reauthorization of the Perkins Act, and including provisions to provide States, school districts, and institutions of higher education with opportunities to expand dual or concurrent enrollment and early college CTE offerings for high school students.

Sincerely,

ACT, Inc.  
 Alliance for Excellent Education  
 America Forward  
 America’s Promise Alliance  
 AVID Center  
 Bard College  
 Be Foundation  
 Brookdale Community College, NJ  
 Educate Texas  
 Georgia State University Early College Program  
 Jobs for the Future  
 KnowledgeWorks Foundation  
 Middle College National Consortium  
 National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships  
 National Association for College Admission Counseling  
 National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
 New America  
 Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education