

## Career & Technical Education: Frequently Asked Questions

### *How many credits are there in a pathway?*

3 secondary-level credits minimum. ½ credits may be accrued to total the 3 credits. The sequence of credits will include introductory-level, technical-level and application-level courses.

Kansas State Department of Education: Regulation #91-31-31, Chapter 91 KSBE Regulations, Article 31 Accreditation, Definitions:

*“Unit of credit” means a measure of credit that may be awarded to a student for satisfactory completion of a particular course or subject. A full unit of credit is credit that is awarded for satisfactory completion of a course or subject that is offered for a generally requires 120 clock-hours to complete. Credit may be awarded in increments based upon the amount of time a course or subject is offered and generally requires to complete. Individual students may be awarded credit based upon demonstrated knowledge of the content of a course or subject, regardless of the amount of time spent by the student in the course or subject. This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005 (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005)*

### *What are the criteria for a student to be a “concentrator”?*

A concentrator is a student who has earned 3 credits in an approved Career & Technical Education Career Clusters Pathway. The student has graduated on time and was reported his or her Senior Year. A concentrator has also met 80% of the competencies for his or her pathway.

### *What are the criteria for a course to receive additional .5 state weighted funding?*

The funding formula remains the same at this time. Remember, VE-2 funding is based on high-cost, low-enrollment technical education programs. As we move from programs to pathways, that is taken into consideration when determining what courses will be funded.

Pathways available for state approval at the secondary-level must meet the following criteria: Lead to high-demand and high-skill careers with postsecondary connections and/or industry credentials/certifications **or** Lead to high-demand and high-wage careers with postsecondary connections and/or industry credentials/certifications.

What is .5 and Carl Perkins money? Refer to [www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=55](http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=55)

### *What are high-demand, high-skill and/or high-wage careers?*

The “Kansas Secondary-Level Career Clusters and Pathways Model” has been posted on the Career & Technical Education webpage. These are the pathways that meet the high-demand/high-skill/high-wage criteria that we intend to develop at the state-level. Wage & Employment Information for each of these pathways may also be found on the Cluster specific webpage at [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org), Career & Technical Education page.

High-Demand: an occupation that has a critical shortage of workers to fill the employment needs of industry and requires formal training exceeding that which can be provided on the job.

High-Skill: an occupation that requires all of the following: specialized technical training; an advanced level of skill sets as defined by each industry and/or education (examples: independent decision making, critical thinking, problem solving); a recognized validation of skill attainment or credential (examples: certifications, registration, licensure); and includes mandatory continuing education and/or training.

High-Wage: an occupation that has a median wage for the occupation that is at least 200% above federal poverty level for a specific area/region or an entry wage of \$13.75 or higher and offers a wage progression strategy.

*Can I teach the introductory course in an approved pathway at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level?*

Yes, however courses taught at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level are not eligible for additional .5 state weighted funding and will not count as part of the 3 credits required at the secondary level for pathway approval.

*Can the same course apply to multiple pathways?*

Yes!

Examples: Drafting/CAD 1 may be approved for the Design & Pre-Construction Pathway as well as the Manufacturing Pathway. The course would be listed as an approved course under both pathways.

Another example is the Teaching/Training Pathway and the Family & Community Services Pathway. Human Growth & Development is listed as an approved course for both of these pathways.

*Can I submit more than one Career Pathway Program of Study Application for a Pathway? For instance, under the Construction Pathway (CIP Code 46.000) could I submit a Program of Study Application for Cabinetmaking and Furniture Design courses and another Program of Study Application for Commercial Construction courses?*

No. A building may only submit one Career Pathway Program of Study Application per CIP Code. That application should include all courses the school plans to offer within that pathway. It may end up being

a 7-8 credit pathway, which is fine. The individual student will designate the exact courses he/she intends to take from the sequence on his/her Personal Plan of Study that leads to careers in his/her area of interest.

*If the pathway I'm interested in hasn't been developed at the state level, what am I supposed to do in the meantime?*

There are a number of things you can do in the meantime:

- Learn more about the pathway and stay informed of the progress being made in developing the pathway at the state level. Information may be found at [www.careerclusters.org](http://www.careerclusters.org) and [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org) on the Career & Technical Education page. KSDE Consultants have set up list serves for each of the career clusters. Contact the KSDE consultant for the pathway you are interested in and ask to be added to the appropriate list serve.
- Research the pathway your school is interested in offering. This could include: reviewing student interest assessment data (Kansas Career Pipeline, ACT World-of-Work Map, etc.) to determine if there is a high interest in the pathway at your school and researching Labor Market Information (LMI) to determine high-skill, high-wage and/or high-demand careers that the pathway leads to.
- Talk with your Advisory Committee and gain their support.
- Determine the people in your school that should work on developing the pathway at the local level. A Cluster-Specific Operations Team should include: Career & Technical Education teacher(s); Academic teacher(s); Administrator(s); Counselor(s)/Academic Advisor(s); Postsecondary Partner(s).

*Note that VET approved programs stay in place until ...(complete)*

*Can one or more courses in a pathway's approved sequence be delivered by a postsecondary partner and still generate additional .5 state weighted funding?*

Yes, if it is approved as part of the approved sequence in the pathway. Funding follows the CTE student. So, local negotiations would take place concerning...(complete).

*Currently, if a secondary student attends an approved postsecondary CTE course, participation in that course generates the additional .5 state weighted funding. Under the new pathway system, if one of the three one-hour courses in the approved sequence is an approved postsecondary CTE course delivered by the postsecondary instructor will the sequence be approved by KSDE? Will participation in the postsecondary course generate the additional .5 state weighted funding as it does now?*

Yes, if the course is teaching the state-approved competencies. The concern to be considered is the highly qualified teacher, as defined by No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Certainly, a postsecondary CTE course taught by a secondary teacher, assigned to that subject area, would be acceptable.

The funding formula remains the same at this time.

*Perkins requires that a new “program” operate for a year before Perkins funds can be utilized to support the program’s activities. Does this year wait requirement apply, for example, to a newly approved Agriculture & Natural Resources pathway if that Pathway evolved from an approved Agriculture Program?*

No, moving from a VE-2 approved program to an approved “pathway” does not require a year wait. The Perkins funds will transfer from programs to pathways.

*I read that the Carl Perkins or federal level money is not a district entitlement. Does this mean that the amount that is allocated is not based upon the number of students in our vocational programs but just on the application? Is there still a \$15,000 limitation on how much is generated by a district before they apply by themselves? Is there a place on your website that talks about how much each grant is given or projected to receive?*

At the federal level, a federally driven formula has been provided to states for use as they figure the local district allocations. Seventy percent of the allocation is based on a census report which determines eligibility under the Title I or ESEA for youth ages 5 to 17 whose families are below the poverty line.

Thirty percent of the allocation is based on total enrollment census data for ages 15 through 19 who live in the district.

The federal legislation has identified a threshold of \$15,000 for secondary and post-secondary is \$50,000. As a state we can’t change the levels that have been identified in the federal legislation. If your district allocation falls below the \$15,000 minimum, you have the opportunity to consort with an education service center or with a few near-by districts as long as your district allocations total at least \$15,000 and a fiscal agent is identified. A Consultant would be more than happy to work with you if you chose to form your own little consortium of districts. Things that you would need to submit: A plan reflective of the 12 elements identified in the legislation that will take you through the remaining years of the legislation, activities that will support the plan for FY 2011, a CTE Advisory group to approve the plan and transfer of funds sheets to the district identified as the fiscal agent.

District allocations for FY 2011 have not been made available. We are still waiting on our state allocation from the federal level. If you would like to view what your district allocation was for FY 2010, you may visit our website at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=291>. Scroll down until you find the section for the FY2010 Perkins IV Grant application. As soon as the formula for determining local allocations has been run, the district allocations will be posted on our website.

We have a Perkins IV listserv that we send out Perkins IV updates through. If you would like to be added to the listserv, please notify Bobbi Lewis, [blewis@ksde.org](mailto:blewis@ksde.org).

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to call, 785-296-2883 or email, [kolson@ksde.org](mailto:kolson@ksde.org).

*Why couldn't schools have articulation agreements based on need and not proximity to the community postsecondary schools?*

Articulation agreements should be developed based on need and not just proximity to the postsecondary institution. You may also have multiple articulation agreements. Please refer to "Functions of an Advisory Committee" on KSDE's website ([www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)), Career & Technical Education page for additional guidance.

*In many occupations, students need to be 18 years old to participate. Most high school students are not 18. How will pathways deal with this?*

Each pathway must include a Professional Learning Opportunity (formerly referred to as Experience Based Learning). This could be provided through In-house Training (IHT). A school may also utilize Registered Apprenticeships offered through the Department of Commerce. All of these provide experiences for the student under 18 years of age. ([www.kansasapprenticeship.org](http://www.kansasapprenticeship.org)).

*How is funding distributed if courses are offered through a virtual classroom?*

## VE-2 Program Assurances Questions

### *What are the Assurances?*

The Assurances are a legal document that answers seven criteria that should be in place to continue program approval and eligibility for state and federal funds. Additional guidance can be found in the Annual District Career and Technical Education Quality VE-2 Program Assurances Criteria and Guidance document on the KSDE web site at the following web address.

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1660>

### *Who has to submit the assurances?*

The assurances are submitted by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee in the CaTE data collection system. Teachers should be involved in answering each of the seven criteria.

### *When are the assurances due?*

The assurances are due on September 20<sup>th</sup> each year. Should September 20<sup>th</sup> fall on a weekend, the assurances are due the following Monday.

### *Where do I find the application for submission?*

The form for the submission is in the CaTE data collection system. A copy of the form and guidance for answering the criteria is located on the KSDE web site <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1660>

### *What happens if the assurances have not been submitted by September 20<sup>th</sup>?*

Programs that do not have assurances submitted by September 20<sup>th</sup> are dropped from the list of approved programs and do not continue to receive additional .5 state-weighted or Carl D. Perkins funding.

### *What happens if a district answers "no" to one or more of the criteria?*

A list is generated that the Education Program Consultant(s) review and technical assistance is offered.

### *Do the assurances need to be filed for each approved program or is it one submission for the district?*

The assurances form is submitted for each approved VE-2 program the district offers. When the district has more than one site for a program, the form submitted reflects answers for all sites. Documentation is stored locally at a district appointed location, only the assurances corrected applications is submitted to KSDE.

### *Do first year programs have to submit the assurances?*

Yes, all VE-2 programs, including first year programs, have to submit the assurances.

*Are the assurances tied to funding? If so, what funding source(s)?*

Programs that do not have the assurances application submitted by September 20<sup>th</sup> are dropped from the list of approved programs and do not continue to receive additional .5 state-weighted or Carl D. Perkins funding.

*Who can I contact for additional assistance?*

The final page of the guidance document lists the appropriate staff.

*Will we still have to do assurances when we switch to Career Clusters Pathways?*

A different approach will be taken with the Pathways.

How long should assurances documentation be kept on file?

## Health Science Questions

Consultant: Karmey Olson, [kolson@ksde.org](mailto:kolson@ksde.org) or 785-296-2883

*When will Health Occupation/Exploration programs currently receiving VE-2 state funding cease?*

Fall 2009. To continue to receive state funding, a school must submit a Career Pathway Program of Study Application for 2009-2010 by March 15, 2009.

*What items are required with the Career Pathway Program of Study Application? Where can I find the application?*

A list of items may be found here: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3227> The list also includes items that should be kept on file locally. The Career Pathway Program of Study Application for 2009-2010 can be found at this link: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1660>

*Where can I find the Kansas Health Science Education Competency Profile?*

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3227>

*How many credits are there in an approved Health Science Education Cluster? What courses are necessary for approval?*

A Health Science Education cluster must be comprised of courses that are the equivalent of three (3) credit hours. The three (3) credit hours must consist of career and technical education courses that have been identified for Health Science Education. Each sequence of courses will have an introductory level, technical level and application level. The various levels and suggested course content have been identified for Health Science Education. The link to the common course codes and the Health Science Education descriptions can be found at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3227>. The following is an example of a sequence of courses:

	Biology	9th Grade	Possible pre-requisite
	Anatomy and Physiology	10th Grade	Possible pre-requisite
14001G1.0011	Health Science Education I	10th Grade	1 Credit
14002G1.0011	Health Science Education II	11th Grade	.5 Credit
14002G1.0011	Health Science Education III	11th Grade	.5 Credit
14998G1.0011	Health Science Education V	12th Grade	1 Credit
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3 Credits</b>

There are many ways in which you can combine the suggested courses into a sequence that is right for the students. Perhaps the sequence will be all year long courses or even provide opportunities via various technologies (ITV, IDL, web-based applications, etc.). The bottom line is a sequence of courses must include three levels (introductory, technical, application) and be a minimum of three credits.

*Is Human Anatomy and Physiology a funded course?*

Human Anatomy and Physiology is not a funded Health Science Education course. Human Anatomy and Physiology can be a part of the sequence of courses and is identified with a common course code for the sciences.