

PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PERSONNEL

H.1 May an eligible recipient allow private school students to participate in its career and technical education programs and activities funded under Perkins IV?

Yes. Section 317(b)(1) of Perkins IV allows, but does not require, an eligible recipient, upon written request, to use its Perkins IV funds to provide for the meaningful participation of secondary students who reside in the geographical area served by the eligible recipient and who are enrolled in a nonprofit private school, except as prohibited by State or local law. An eligible recipient is not required to spend any specific amount of funds on services for private school students. However, the Department encourages recipients to provide services of reasonable scope and usefulness. An eligible recipient, as defined in section 3(14) of Perkins IV, includes, at the secondary level, an LEA (including a public charter school that operates as an LEA), an area career and technical education school, an educational service agency, or a consortium eligible to receive assistance under section 131 of Perkins IV.

H.2 Which private school students are eligible for career and technical education services?

Secondary school students who reside within the eligible recipient's geographical area and who are enrolled in nonprofit private schools, whether or not the private school is located in the eligible recipient's geographical area, are eligible to participate in career and technical education services. For example, secondary school students who reside in Arlington County and attend a private school in the District of Columbia (DC) would be eligible for career and technical education services offered by Arlington County. A representative of the private school in DC would submit a written request to the Arlington County Public Schools (APS) to provide for the students' participation in APS' career and technical education programs and activities.

H.3 What obligation does an eligible recipient have with respect to consulting with private school officials?

An eligible recipient must consult, upon written request, in a timely and meaningful manner, with representatives of nonprofit private schools in the geographical area served by the eligible recipient, regarding the meaningful participation of eligible private school students in its career and technical education programs funded under Perkins IV. See section 317(b)(2) of Perkins IV. An eligible recipient also may consult with private school officials in geographic areas not served by the eligible recipient (e.g., a neighboring LEA), as students who are eligible for career and technical education services might attend those schools.

H.4 What is a State's or eligible recipient's responsibility with respect to allowing private school teachers and other school personnel to participate in its career and technical education in-service or professional development programs?

Section 317(a) of Perkins IV requires that a State or an eligible recipient that uses Perkins IV funds for in-service and preservice career and technical education professional development programs for career and technical education teachers, administrators, and other personnel, *to the extent practicable*, and upon written request, permit private school teachers, administrators, and personnel to participate in such programs. Section 317(a) applies only to those personnel in private schools that offer career and technical secondary education programs and that are located in the geographical area served by the State or the eligible recipient. Section 317(a) does not require the State or the eligible recipient to expend Perkins funds for separate programs and activities for private school personnel.

H.5 Is there a deadline for private school representatives to submit a written request for consultation or services to the State or an eligible recipient?

Perkins IV does not establish a date or deadline for private school representatives to submit a written request for consultation or for services. Private school representatives are encouraged to contact the State or an eligible recipient as early as possible to allow ample time for the State or the eligible recipient to consider the request prior to planning its Perkins IV services and activities for the following school year. Private school representatives may want to contact the State or an eligible recipient to express their interest in career and technical education and obtain the information needed to make a written request for services or consultation. We encourage recipients to advise private school representatives to contact the LEA early so that the LEA may plan for services at the same time it is planning services for all students in the LEA.

H.6 What information should private school representatives include in requests to the State or an eligible recipient?

Perkins IV does not establish any requirements for the content of written requests from private school representatives to the State or an eligible recipient for career and technical education services or consultation. The Department recommends that private school representatives first contact the State or an eligible recipient to ascertain what information the State or eligible recipient may require in a written request. The Department suggests that a written request include, at a minimum, a statement regarding the services or consultation requested, the numbers and types of personnel or students to be served, the geographical area in which the students reside, and the private school's address and contact information.

H.7 What Perkins IV funds would the State or an eligible recipient use to fund programs and activities for private school personnel and students?

The State or an eligible recipient would use the same type of funds to provide programs and activities for private school personnel and students as it uses to provide the same services to public school students. A State, for example, would use its State leadership funds under section 124 of Perkins IV to provide the same training and professional development of private school career and technical education teachers, counselors, and administrators, as the State provides to public school career and technical education personnel. As a second example, an eligible recipient would use its funds under section 135 of Perkins IV to provide the same teacher training, in-service, and preservice activities for private school career and technical education personnel as the eligible recipient provides to its own public school career and technical education personnel.