

ITEM 148-101-R0710

Proposed Changes in Perkins IV State Plan

THAT

Pursuant to 20-7-330, M.C.A., and BOR Policy 272, the Board of Regents approve revisions of the Carl D. Perkins IV State Plan recommended by the State Executive Leadership Team and approved by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE).

EXPLANATION

Montana statute and regental policy require that revisions of the Perkins IV State Plan be approved by the Board of Regents. In preparation for the monitoring visit by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education in June 2010 and in response to the dissolving of the Big Sky Pathways Peaks-to-Plains Consortium as of June 30, 2010, the State Executive Leadership Team (SELT) for Montana's Carl D. Perkins Program has undertaken an extensive review of the State Plan for Perkins IV and recommends several changes.

The attachment to this agenda item provides the specific revisions to the pertinent sections of the state plan. An explanation of each basic change is provided below:

1. **Delivering Tech Prep (Title II) through formula-based funding for twelve consortia, rather than competitively awarded funding for 1 consortium.** (Specific revisions are on pp. 7, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 61, attached). The grant period for the Peaks-to-Plains Big Sky Pathways Consortium led by Flathead Valley Community College and MSU-Billings College of Technology expired June 30, 2010, and the two campuses elected not to extend the grant beyond the initial period. After considering our options, SELT has decided to pursue incorporating Tech Prep funds into the larger Perkins allocation as of July 1, 2011, and will begin the formal hearing process required for that substantive revision in October 2010. In the interim, we propose using a formula-based process for allocating Tech Prep funding in FY 2011. We plan to create up to twelve consortia, designating the Perkins-eligible two-year colleges as "hubs" for the development of secondary-through-postsecondary programs of study in career/technical areas. Twelve colleges have already expressed interest in leading a consortium in their region; up to 168 high schools are anticipated to participate. In addition to advancing the development of programs of study, a Perkins priority, this activity will support the COLLEGE!NOW approaches to dual enrollment and regional responsiveness.
2. **Broadening the institutions eligible for "State Institutions" Perkins funding to include institutions that serve people with disabilities.** (Specific revisions are on pp. 4, 37, and 63.) Language throughout the document has been changed from "Correctional Institutions" to a broader designation that includes institutions like the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, which serve individuals with disabilities. Perkins law requires that these institutions include residential services, directly receive state and/or federal funding and offer career and technical training programming in coordination with a Perkins-eligible high school or two-year college.
3. **Changing fixed percentages for allocations in two areas to a ceiling for allocations and increasing the ceiling in one area.** (Specific revisions are on pp. 37 and 63.) In the current plan, a fixed 0.5% of leadership funding is earmarked for projects at state correctional institutions and a fixed 10% of the local application grant funds is reserved for projects prioritized by the State Executive Leadership Team. The federal guidelines identify such percentages as "ceilings" for funding rather than fixed

amounts by using the expression “up to 1%” and “up to 10%.” In order to mirror the federal language and provide greater flexibility in the crafting of proposals for these funds and decisions about awards, SELT proposes using similar language in Montana’s State Plan. We also propose increasing the 0.5% ceiling for state correctional institutions to 1% to match the requirements of the Perkins Law. (See #2, above.)

4. **Reducing the number of on-site reviews of local applications from 25% of all local applications to 20%** (p. 44). This change mirrors federal practice. The Carl D. Perkins Law does not specify that sub-grantees be monitored in any specific percentage or timeframe. However, OVAE itself is required to monitor all state grants at least once during the five years of the Perkins Law. On an annual basis, this amounts to 20%.

The Office of Adult and Vocational Education has advised the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education that these revisions are not substantive enough to necessitate a public hearing process.

ATTACHMENTS

Specific Proposed Revisions to Montana’s Perkins IV State Plan