



The ABCs of Career Clusters

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What We'll Cover

- What are Clusters/Where Did They Originate?
- Definitions
- Structure of Clusters
- Benefit of Clusters For Multiple Audiences
- Relationship to Perkins Act
- Resources

The Origins of Clusters



STATE  DIRECTORS
National Association of State Directors
of Career Technical Education Consortium



Career Clusters Are...

- A grouping of occupations and industries which are used as an organizing tool to provide a framework for understanding our workforce system.
 - 16 Clusters
 - 79 Career Pathways

16 Career Clusters





Definitions

- Career Pathway– is an organizer of knowledge and skills shared by professions within a cluster



Definitions

- Program of Study- a sequence of instruction that prepares individuals for a career



Definitions

- Knowledge and Skills Statements- industry validated statements that describe what learners/employees need to know and be able to do to have career success in their chosen field.



Career Clusters

- Cluster Leader
- National Advisory Committees
 - K-12
 - Postsecondary
 - Businesses
 - Associations
 - Govt



Career Clusters

- Role of National Advisory Committees
 - Help develop knowledge and skills statements
 - Are content experts
 - Bring visibility to careers

Career Clusters Pathway Model



Planning, managing and providing education and training services, and related learning support services.

Sample Career Specifics / Occupations	<p>Elementary and Secondary Superintendents, Principals, Administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supervisors and Instructional Coordinators •Education Researchers, Test Measurement Specialists/ Assessment Specialists •College Presidents, Deans, Department Chairs, Program Coordinators <p>Post-Secondary Administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Curriculum Developers •Instructional Media Designers <p>Education and Training Technician Labor Relations Managers/Specialists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Psychologists- Clinical, Developmental, Social <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Social Workers •Parent Educators •Counselors •Program Advisors •Financial Aid Advisors •Career Counselors/ Advisors •Career and Employment Placement Counselors •Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Instructional Resources Coordinator •Technology Support Administrator Database Administrators/AV Specialists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Distance Education Coordinator Human Resources Manager Organization Development Specialist Training Manager/Coordinator Instructional Coordinators Museum Coordinators/Technicians Media Coordinators/Specialists Instructional Media Designer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Preschool, Kindergarten Teachers, Aides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Elementary Teachers, Aides •Secondary/CTE Teachers, Aides •Special Education Teachers, Aides •College/University Lecturers, Professors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Resource Trainers Physical Trainers Professional Coaches •Preschool & Child Care Program Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Child Care Assistants/Workers •Child Life Specialist •Nanny •Early Childhood Teachers and Assistants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional Systems Specialist Corporate Trainers and Educators Adult Literacy Teachers Librarians/Assistants/ Technicians
Pathways	<p>Administration and Administrative Support</p>	<p>Professional Support Services</p>	<p>Teaching/Training</p>
Cluster K&S	<p>Cluster Knowledge and Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Academic Foundations ◆ Communications ◆ Problem Solving and Critical Thinking ◆ Information Technology Applications ◆ Systems ◆ Safety, Health and Environmental ◆ Leadership and Teamwork ◆ Ethics and Legal Responsibilities ◆ Employability and Career Development ◆ Technical Skills 		



Career Clusters

- Clusters are used as a model for states and locals to develop their own cluster models
- Knowledge and skills are validated by business involvement
- For all students/not old “voc ed”

Voc Ed vs. CTE

- For some students
 - Separate voc ed track
 - Limited Programs Offered
 - High school focused
 - Focus on specific occupational skills
- For all students
 - Academic integration
 - 16 Clusters and 79 Pathways
 - High School and Postsecondary Partnerships
 - Progression of foundational, pathway and occupational skills



Three Important Points About Clusters

- Careers not jobs
- Linkages
- Model for states



CTE Has Many Roles

□ 4 Principles:

- High School Reform
- Coordination
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Empowering Learners



Career Cluster Benefits

■ Learners

- Relevance
- Life long learning
- Path to explore careers
- Documentation of Competencies



Career Cluster Benefits

- Faculty

- Integration of tailored curriculum
- Enhanced achievement and focus for learners



Career Cluster Benefits

■ Parents

- Preparation for postsecondary
- Focus on school
- Framework to understand career options



Career Cluster Benefits

■ Counselors

- Provides a roadmap for students
- Motivates learners
- Students understand relevancy of coursework



Career Cluster Benefits

- State and Local Businesses
 - Well prepared workforce
 - Connection to school curriculum
 - Helps future and current workforce



Career Cluster Benefits


- Postsecondary Institutions

- Incoming students better prepared/focused
- Way to connect with business




Career Clusters

- Connection to Programs of Study in the Perkins Act




Programs of Study are state developed or approved programs, which may be adopted by local education agencies and postsecondary institutions to be offered as an option to students when planning for and completing future coursework for career and technical content areas.

Perkins –
“Programs of Study”




1. Incorporate secondary education and postsecondary education elements;

Perkins –
“Programs of Study”




2. Include coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant career and technical content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses that align secondary education with postsecondary education to adequately prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education;

Perkins –
“Programs of Study”



3. May include the opportunity for secondary education students to participate in dual or concurrent enrollment programs or other ways to acquire postsecondary education credits; and

Perkins –
“Programs of Study”



4. Lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

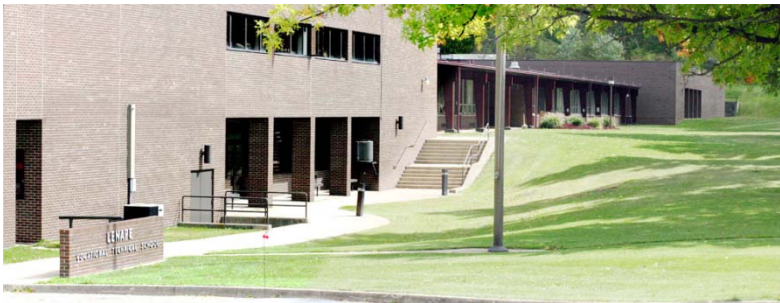
Perkins –
“Programs of Study”

Focus Selection

- What Clusters Should We Implement?
 - 1st - Labor market demand
 - 2nd - Alignment of existing resources to labor market demand
 - 3rd - Student interest



Scope of Cluster




- What grades will be included?
 - K - 12
 - 6 - 12
 - 9 - 14
 - P - 14
 - P - 16
 - P - 20



Some Recommendations. . .

Use Career Clusters to:

- Link instruction to a career theme
- Strengthen the senior year
- Make sure instruction relates to the learners' career interests and aspirations

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- Link instruction to careers and postsecondary education – What will the learners need in 10-15 years?
 - Make all career-themed instruction more intellectually demanding (high expectations)
 - Make sure students are following a plan/program of study (grades 9-16+)

More Recommendations. . .

Career Clusters' Resources

- Plans of Study
- www.careerclusters.org
 - Let me walk you through the webpage
- Annual Career Clusters Institute
 - June 14-16, 2010 Denver, Colorado