



THE STATE
of ALASKA

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Labor and
Workforce Development

Office of the Commissioner

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March 20, 2019

Chair Lora Reinbold
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Reinbold,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 65 – the career and technical education bill - and SB 66 – the division merger bill on March 19 in the Senate Labor and Commerce committee. As a follow-up, there were two questions that needed further clarification. I am providing the responses in this communication.

Senator Mia Costello

Is the CTE plan updated regularly? How are job needs identified in the plan?

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board meets regularly, and is the lead career and technical planning group in the State. The AWIB is a partnership of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Education, and the University of Alaska. Its' membership includes a broad spectrum of stakeholders who advance career and technical education, in response to the identified employment demands of our state. The original plan was compiled in 2010, and an addendum was completed in 2018.

Senator Click Bishop

Are there benchmarks for performing and underperforming CTE programs?

Yes, for Carl Perkins IV grant funding through the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), there are required indicators of performance for both secondary and postsecondary programs. These indicators include graduation rates, academic proficiency, student placement in postsecondary education, military service or employment, participation in work-based learning and attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials. Each year DEED negotiates benchmarks with the US Department of Education based on information from the previous year. The state is required to meet 95% of these benchmarks.

Perkins V will take effect on July 1, 2019 and will require core indicators of performance for both secondary and postsecondary programs. The DOL/WD will be working with DEED on the State Plan for Perkins V reauthorization to review core indicators of performance, with the intent of adding more emphasis on employment outcomes in alignment with the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act.

Thank you, again, for your interest in career and technical education, and for your assistance in helping the Department maximize limited resources while providing the best possible service to Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Ledbetter".

Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter
Commissioner-designee