Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V)

State Leadership Activities Teacher Professional Development

Request for Applications

Essential information guiding application for and award of this grant is contained in this Request for Applications (RFA).

Applications are due at the Department of Education & Early Development on 8 May 2026 no later than 4:00pm

For additional information about this RFA or this grant contact:
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E-mail:bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov
Voice:(907) 465-6542

Table of Contents

Program Overview 2
Grant Focus 2
Eligibility 2
Project Design 3
Federal Compliance Requirements (UEI) 3
Available Funding and Award Considerations 3
Application Review Process 4
Award Process 4
Appeals Process 4
Assurances and Required Forms 4
Continuation of Funding 4
Timeline 5
Required Reporting 5
Application Procedures 6
Scoring Rubric 7
Program Abstract 9
Technical Assistance 10
Assurance of Nondiscrimination 10
Other Considerations 10
- Fiscal Procedures 10
- Disallowable Costs 10
- Subcontracts 11
- Ownership of Copyright and Patents 11
- News Releases and Publications 11
- Indemnification 11
- Insurance 12

Private School Participation Form 13

Program Overview

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), Sec. 124 STATE LEADERSHIP, requires states to support high-quality comprehensive Career & Technical Education (CTE) teacher professional development that is grounded in evidence-based research for district programs funded by current grants.

Permissible activities include those that—

1. Promote the integration of the challenging State academic standards adopted by the State under section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and relevant technical knowledge and skills, including programming jointly delivered to academic and career and technical education teachers;
2. Prepare career and technical education teachers, faculty, specialized instructional support personnel, and paraprofessionals to provide appropriate accommodations for students who are members of special populations, including through the use of principles of universal design for learning, multi-tier systems of supports, and positive behavioral interventions and support; and
3. Increase the ability of teachers, faculty, specialized instructional support personnel, and paraprofessionals providing career and technical education instruction to stay current with industry standards and earn an industry-recognized credential or license, as appropriate, including by assisting those with relevant industry experience in obtaining State teacher licensure or credential requirements.

Grant Focus

The focus of this grant is to support intensive **instructor professional development opportunities in career and technical education**. The specific areas will be high-needs CTE priorities as determined by Perkins receiving districts. These activities will provide CTE teachers the opportunity to develop pedagogical skills and/or content knowledge appropriate to their classrooms and communities while incorporating aspects of ongoing DEED initiatives. The intent of the grant is to provide professional development for teachers that will in turn beneficially affect their students in accordance with Perkins law as summarized in the Program Overview above.

Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply for this opportunity:

1. Alaskan **school districts** that are recipients of a current (FY26) Perkins grant;
2. Alaskan **postsecondary institutions** offering CTE teacher professional development in:
    a. CTE instructional pedagogical techniques; or
    b. CTE content-specific training.

Project Design

Funds available under this RFA may be used to develop CTE professional development institutes and learning opportunities for Alaskan teachers, either within and/or between districts, during the 2026-2027 Academic Year. Proposals for meeting the professional development needs of individual teachers in small districts will also be considered.

All proposals must include a plan for either five days or 40 hours of progressive professional development over the grant period. Short-term workshops, meetings, or conferences that do not result in a total of at least 40 instructional hours will not be considered for funding. Proposals shall include an option for participants to earn postsecondary credit either as 600-level content coursework or 500-level professional development credit. Providing CEU credit to participants is also acceptable.

Proposals must include:

1. A statement of:
    a. Instructional focus (e.g. pedagogical or content specific) and/or content focus (e.g. Career Cluster—Agriculture);
    b. How the proposed activities will strengthen existing Perkins CTE programs;
2. Estimated numbers of CTE teachers and students impacted;
3. Number of postsecondary credits teachers will earn through participation; and
4. A timeline of proposed events including per event contact hours and total contact hours.

Federal Compliance Requirements (UEI)

In accordance with the Federal Fiscal Accountability Transparency Act (FFATA), all grant recipients must have a valid Unique Entity ID (UEI) number, the successor to the DUNS number. A UEI number may be obtained from the federal SAM site (www.sam.gov).

Applicants are required to provide their UEI number as part of the application. No award will be made to an applicant not in compliance with FFATA.

Available Funding and Award Considerations

1. **Projected Total Amount Available for Awards**
   Approximately $125,000 is available to fund this program in FY27. The state anticipates awarding up to **five grants**. Grant amounts will be based on the number and quality of applications submitted. *The state reserves the right to award a smaller or larger amount of grant funds than requested based upon available funding and the recommendations of the review panel.*

2. **Grant Amounts**
   The expected grant range is from $10,000 to $25,000 per grant.

3. **Grant Period**
   Duration of this competitive grant period will be 1 July 2026, to 30 June 2027.

4. **Grant Expenditures**
   Up to 20% of the requested grant amount may be used for equipment and materials necessary to conduct the proposed training.

Application Review Process

A panel of reviewers composed of a minimum of three department staff and/or other educators will read all grants submitted and received by the deadline. Applications will be scored independently using a scoring rubric. Reviewers will then conference to clarify the accuracy of reviewers' understanding. Each reviewer will assign a rating to each of the components published in this RFA. The reviewer may, for each section, use the entire range of scores including zero. The reviewers' total scores will be averaged to determine the order by which applications will be considered for funding; funds will be awarded to the highest average scoring application(s). Up to 10 incentive points will be awarded to proposals that provide professional development in online, virtual, CTE course instruction and development.

Review Panelists will be asked for recommendations for improving the application and commenting on the feasibility of the budget. These comments may form the basis for adjustments negotiated to the application prior to issuance of the grant award.

Award Process

The state retains the right to refrain from making any awards if it determines that to be in its best interest. This RFA does not, by itself, obligate the state. The state reserves the right to add terms and conditions during grant negotiations. These terms and conditions will be within the scope of the RFA and will not affect the application reviews.

By 22 May 2026, the state will issue a written Notice of Intent to Award (NIA) and send copies to all applicants. The NIA will identify the application(s) selected for award. The NIA will be followed by intent to award letter with any changes recommended by the review panel.

Appeals Process

Chapter 40 of the Alaska Administrative Code governs the process of appeals. This information is available online (https://www.akleg.gov/basis/aac.asp#4.40.010).

Assurances and Required Forms

The Professional Development grant is a federally funded program and the general Certifications and Assurances packet related to federal programs that was submitted for the current fiscal year by the district to the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development will apply to this program. This is a reminder that the school district must be fully aware of its obligations to adhere to all state and federal requirements in the event the grant application is approved.

Copies of this Request for Application may be obtained from DEED's forms webpage (http://www.education.alaska.gov/forms)

Continuation of Funding

In awarding the grant, the state expects the grantees to conduct all activities and evaluation measures as written or negotiated in the approved grant application. Failure to provide the requested performance reports; report and evaluate on all activities as proposed; and implement the grant as written, could result in the loss of funding. Any changes to the original funded application must receive prior approval by the state.

The state reserves the rights to withhold funding, reduce funding, or terminate funding if the application is not meeting program reporting requirements, performance goals, and measures. This includes access to carry over (unexpended funds at the end of the fiscal year) funds.

After it has been awarded, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development may terminate a grant by giving the grantee written notice of termination. In the event of termination after award, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development shall reimburse the grantee for approved grant expenses incurred up to the notification of termination. This grant is subject to federal appropriations and may be reduced or terminated based on federal appropriated funds in any given fiscal year.

Timeline

RFA released:	30 March 2026
Application received by DEED:	8 May 2026
Notice of intent to award:	22 May 2026
Appeal period ends:	5 June 2026
Grant period:	1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027

Required Reporting

All grantees will be required to submit a final grant report to DEED no later than 31 July 2027.

Send narrative reports digitally as a PDF file to Bjørn Wolter at bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov.

Application Procedures

Proposals must include the following:

1. **Cover Page**
2. **Project Abstract** – Not to exceed one page
3. **Project Narrative:** Not to exceed ten (10) double-spaced, numbered pages with a 12-point serif font (Times New Roman is recommended). **A timeline of events is required.**
4. **Project Budget and Narrative**: Use DEED form 05-07-071. (https://education.alaska.gov/forms/05-07-071.xlsx) if you represent an Alaskan School District, or DEED form 05-07-069 (https://education.alaska.gov/forms/05-07-069.xlsx) if you represent a postsecondary or non-profit organization. *Successful grantees will manage funds in the GMS system.*
5. **Private School Participation Form**

Submit the application electronically as a single e-mail attachment in PDF format. Electronic applications are due **by 4:00 p.m., Alaska Daylight Time, on 8 May 2026**. Send the e-mail with the application attached to bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov.

Scoring Rubric

Abstract..... 15pts

In one page, provide a concise and accurate abstract describing:

1. The objective(s) of this project;
2. The priority workforce area and career pathway that will be addressed;
3. The broader impact of the proposed project;
4. The actions to be taken during the grant period;

Project narrative..... 55pts

In ten pages or less, describe the proposed program clearly, including:

1. The need for the proposed program including any relevant data.
2. The program model, including:
    a. How activities will meet the identified needs,
    b. Instructional focus,
    c. How the proposal will strengthen CTE instruction
    d. Anticipated number of participants,
    e. Number of students to be impacted,
3. A project timeline

Program Budget..... 30pts

Applicants must submit a detailed budget of anticipated costs using the template DEED Form 05-07-070.

1. No more than 20% of the proposed budget may be used for materials.
2. Federal Perkins regulation limits organizational indirect costs to 5% of the award.

Total 100pts

	Perkins V Professional Development Grant Competitive 1-Year Grant Beginning 2026-2027 School Year COVER PAGE **Due Date: 8 May 2026**	Division of Innovation and Education Excellence P.O. Box 110500 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500 **Phone**: (907) 465-2892 **Email**: bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov

School District:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Superintendent Name:

Phone and Email:

Grant Lead Name:

Phone and Email:

Amount of Funding Requested:

By my signature below, I agree, upon the approval of the project application by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, to accept and perform the requirements as contained in the Perkins V Professional Development Grant Packet.

Signature of Authorized Representative _____ Date _____

Signature of Superintendent _____ Date _____

Program Abstract

Project Title:

Project Director:

Fiscal Agent:

In one page or less, please state the goals and objectives of the project, the major activities, the planned participants, number of students impacted, and the anticipated outcomes.

Technical Assistance

DEED personnel are available to provide technical assistance and answer questions about the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act program and the competitive grant application. Please contact Bjørn Wolter (907) 465-6542 or bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov.

Assurance of Nondiscrimination

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development is an equal opportunity employer and will not discriminate in the department employment, supervision, practices, services, or educational programs on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, veteran's status, veteran's disability, or political affiliation.

Other Considerations

Fiscal Procedures
All federal funds must be assigned to individual accounts that can be readily identified and verified.

All payments will be made on a reimbursement basis for expenditures incurred by the grantee. Reimbursement requests must be submitted to the department at least quarterly and be listed on a form 165d (supplied by the Department of Education) and a computer printout indicating the date of obligation, vendor name, accounting object code, and exact amount of the transaction. Form 165b may be used for reporting transactions instead of computer printouts. The final payment will not be made until after the grant activity has been concluded and the required end-of-year report has been submitted to the department. Expenditures in excess of approved budget amounts will be the responsibility of the grantee.

Eligible expenditures will be limited to those directly necessary and essential to the accomplishment of the proposed grant activity. These will customarily include personnel salaries, benefits, consultant fees, materials and supplies, travel, telephone, and postage. Indirect expenses may be charged but are capped by federal Perkins law at 5% of the total grant, regardless of any other negotiated indirect rate with DEED. The eligibility of any disputed item shall be determined by the State Department of Education, and the sponsoring school district or agency shall be responsible for any disputed expenditure. Changes in budgets for approved grant applications shall be conditional on written approval from the department.

The authorization to encumber grant monies will expire at the scheduled conclusion of the approved grant. The final financial statement should be submitted not later than 60 days after the grant expiration date.

School district grantees are responsible for ensuring that audit and accounting procedures are in compliance with OMB Circular A133. Nonprofit agencies' and school districts' regular audit must include a separate schedule of receipts and expenditures by expense object codes for each grant.

Send reimbursement requests to Kristina Monson, Grants Manager, Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, P.O. Box 110500, Juneau, AK 99811. Final payment will be withheld until all reports, including project, have been submitted.

Disallowable Costs
The following are costs not allowed under OMB Circular A-87. Bad debts, contingencies, contributions and donations, entertainment costs, fines and penalties, interest and other financial costs, expenses of local governmental bodies such as school boards and city councils, undercover of costs under grant

agreements, and/or application preparation costs.

Items that may be considered to be educational incentives for students or staff are assumed to be extraneous to the conduct of a federally funded program. If an applicant plans to use these federal funds for items such as t-shirts, banners, stickers, pencils, pizza parties, gift certificates, or other similar purposes, a written justification must be filed with DEED program manager and approved prior to reimbursement.

Subcontracts
The Department of Education & Early Development retains the right to establish the following procedures for subcontracting within a project resulting from this RFA.

A grantee may sub-contract for services up to $10,000 without prior approval from DEED. A copy of sub-contracts of $10,000 or more must be sent to the DEED Program Manager.

Ownership of Copyright and Patents
Ownership of any copyrights, patents, or other proprietary interests that may result from grant activities shall be governed by applicable federal regulations. The department retains the rights for no-cost use or replication of any materials, designs, or programs developed through the use of these funds.

News Releases and Publications
The State of Alaska encourages agencies to publicize approval of these projects and their activities. Every local recipient of funds under this RFA must, in any publication or public announcement, clearly identify any program assisted under this title as a federally funded program under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) funded through a grant from the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. All press releases concerning this project must be approved by the DEED Program Manager prior to release.

The following disclaimer must be printed on materials resulting from work supported by the grant:

> *"The contents of this publication (or book, report, film, etc.) were developed with the assistance of Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) federal funds from the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education & Early Development, nor endorsement by the Federal Government."*

Projects will compile and deliver a professional development packet to DEED at the conclusion of the grant. The professional development packet will include all the participant materials (e.g. handouts, activities, and references), instructor notes, and any other necessary components that would enable replication of all professional development sessions.

Indemnification
Any contractor shall indemnify, save harmless and defend the state, its officers, agents and employees from all liability, including costs and expenses, for all actions or claims resulting from injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly as a result of any error, omission or negligent act of the contractor, subcontractor or anyone directly employed by them in the performance of this contract.

All actions or claims including costs and expenses resulting from injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from the contractor's performance of this contract,

which are caused by the joint negligence of the state and the contractor, shall be apportioned on a comparative fault basis. Any such joint negligence on the part of the state must be a direct result of active involvement by the state.

Insurance

During the life of this grant, any contractor shall purchase and maintain insurance with a carrier or carriers satisfactory to the Department of Administration, Division of Risk Management, covering injury to persons or property suffered by the State of Alaska or a third party, as a result of errors or omissions or operations which arise both out of and during the sub-contractor engaged in work under this grant. A 30-day prior notice to the Contracting Officer is required before cancellation, non-renewal or breach and ground for termination of the contractor's services.

Private School Participation Form

Under ESSA, districts must conduct timely and meaningful consultations with appropriate officials of private schools in order to determine what services, if any, will be provided to eligible children, families, and teachers in those schools under the Title II-A program funded by this application. If your existing Title II-A consultation includes professional development, please include that information below. If not, you will need to conduct a separate consultation of private schools.

Districts must maintain a written record, signed by the private school official, of the required consultations with participating private schools. Private schools refusing participation should be asked to do so by written response. Records declining participation must be kept on file in the district office. The records must be made available to the state for monitoring purposes.

The Title IX Guidance on Equitable Services to Eligible Private School Students, Teachers, and Other Educational Personnel is located on the U.S. Department of Education's website (https://oese.ed.gov/files/2022/03/Draft-Title-VIII-Equitable-Services-Guidance.pdf).

1. Are any nonpublic schools in your district participating in federal program(s) covered by this application?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

2. Describe how the district consulted with private school representatives during all phases of the development and design of projects covered by the application. For those schools choosing to participate, describe how the children to receive benefits were identified, how the children's needs will be identified, and what benefits will be provided.

3. If the answer to #1 is yes, list all the private schools in your district and the number of students who have been identified as eligible to benefit from projects included in this application (low-achieving students, not necessarily low-income students).

Name/Location	Willing to Participate	Total Number Enrolled K-12	# of Students Identified to Benefit	# of Teachers Identified to Benefit