

SB707

Public Middle Schools and High Schools; Student Organizations; Career and Technical Education Organizations Permitted



Bill Patron: Senator Suhas Subramanyam

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

Allows for any public middle school or high school to establish career and technical education student organizations (CTSOs), regardless of whether such school offers a career and technical education course(s).

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT SCHOOL DIVISIONS?

School divisions now have the option to establish CTOS regardless of whether such school offers career and technical education courses.

Previously, any school that establishes a career and technical education student organization (CTSO) must have a corresponding CTE course(s) paired with the CTOS. This recommendation has been in alignment with Federal Perkins V funding regulations and national and state CTOS by-laws. **A school division must still offer corresponding CTE course(s) if they are going to use Perkins V funding to support the CTOS.**

Additionally, schools without corresponding CTE course(s) **may not be able** to participate in national CTOS events or competitions. School divisions should work closely with national and state organizations to determine how participation in events may change. The Department does not govern participation in national competitive events.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- The [Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act \(Perkins V\)](#) defines a CTOS as an organization for individuals enrolled in a career and technical education program that engages in CTE activities as an integral part of the instructional program. Perkins V allows for the permissive use of Perkins V funds to support CTOSs, including student preparation for and participation in technical skills competitions, aligned with CTE program standards and curricula.

Please note: The use of Perkins V funds for CTOS student activities can only be used to strictly support participation of students enrolled in program-related CTE courses who are determined to be eligible members of special populations (as defined by Perkins V) or who are enrolled in nontraditional field related CTE courses.

- The CTE Resource Center [website](#) provides clarifications that will help school divisions and CTE Directors determine the program-related CTE courses aligned to each CTOS and the corresponding requirements for Perkins V funding.

WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE RELEASED?

- VDOE will notify division CTE leaders of this opportunity in the weekly Virginia Education Update on July 11.
- Each state CTSO will release membership criteria for students participating in the CTSOs who are not currently enrolled in a program-related CTE course by the start of the 2024-25 school year.

SCHOOL DIVISION NEXT STEPS:

1. School divisions need to determine if they want to offer additional career and technical education student organization programming.
2. School divisions who choose to offer additional CTSO programming should analyze their new offerings and the requirements for Perkins V funding.
3. If the new CTSO program cannot be funded through Perkins V, the school/school divisions should define new funding source and ensure funding is sustainable for the new program.
4. School divisions may want to educate interested students and families that participation in a CTSO without corresponding CTE course(s) may mean the student or team cannot participate in competitions or national CTSO, like traditional CTSOs paired with corresponding CTE course(s).

WHO IS THE VDOE CONTACT:

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