

**Councils of Presidents  
Council of Workforce Education Report  
March 2026**

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## 1. Key Activities and Progress

CTE Audit: The Division of Career and Adult Education (DCAE) has released data for the 2025 Career and Technical Education Program Quality Audit (CTE Audit). The 2025 CTE Audit report and related data files analyze CTE programs at the postsecondary levels for the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 reporting years. Beginning with the 2026 CTE Audit, programs not meeting performance quality, based on whether the primary or alternate target was met for each metric, will be subject to phase out. CTE programs are evaluated based on three key metrics:

1. Retention or success rate
2. Postsecondary completers who continue education or gain employment
3. Alignment with in-demand occupations

Workforce Pell (AHEAD): Florida State College's (FSCs) are responsible for identifying eligible workforce programs under the Pell Grant program. To qualify, programs must demonstrate alignment with labor market needs, strong completion and job placement outcomes, and a positive economic return for students. The regulation authorizes Pell Grants for short-term workforce training programs ranging from 8 to 15 weeks in duration, 150–599 clock hours (or equivalent credits) and leads to a recognized, portable credential aligned to in-demand occupations. After state approval, the U.S. Department of Education conducts a second review. Programs must demonstrate:

Program completion rates

- Minimum 70% completion rate

Job placement rates

- Minimum 70% employment rate (*2nd quarter after completion*)

Student Aid Rules

- Pell Grants only – no other Title IV aid
  - No concurrent Pell enrollment in degree programs
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## 2. Plans for Next Month

CTE Audit: FSC's will review CTE Audit files and share with relevant administration and staff to support program performance evaluations on (1) Retention or success rate, (2) Postsecondary completers who continue education or gain employment, and (3) Alignment with in-demand occupations.

Workforce Pell: Institutions must review Workforce Pell and Accountability Regulations to determine which short-term workforce programs are currently eligible or to become eligible for Federal Pell Grants.

Perkins data: FSC's to conduct a review of the newly released 2024–2025 Perkins performance metrics, (1) retention and placement, (2) earned post-secondary credential, and (3) non-traditional program concentration.

Master Credentials List (MCL) Maintenance: Applications advocating for programs with identified demand or wage deficiencies must be submitted no later than December 1, 2026, to prevent the removal of these credentials from the 2027–2028 Master Credentials List (MCL). Credentials that have been removed are not eligible for state or federal funding.

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### **3. Pending Items**

FSCs are awaiting the release of the 2026–2027 Carl Perkins grant Request for Proposals (RFP).