

Section 135 ([20 U.S.C. 2355](#)) is amended to read as follows:

135. Local uses of funds

(a) General authority

Each eligible recipient that receives funds under this part shall use such funds to develop, coordinate, implement, or improve career and technical education programs to meet the needs identified in the comprehensive needs assessment described in section 134(c).

(b) Requirements for uses of funds

Funds made available to eligible recipients under this part shall be used to support career and technical education programs that are of sufficient size, scope, and quality to be effective and that—

- (1) provide career exploration and career development activities through an organized, systematic framework designed to aid students, including in the middle grades, before enrolling and while participating in a career and technical education program, in making informed plans and decisions about future education and career opportunities and programs of study, which may include—

(A) introductory courses or activities focused on career exploration and career awareness, including non-traditional fields;

(B) readily available career and labor market information, including information on—

(i) occupational supply and demand;

(ii) educational requirements;

(iii) other information on careers aligned to State, local, or Tribal (as applicable) economic priorities; and

(iv) employment sectors;

(C) programs and activities related to the development of student graduation and career plans;

(D) career guidance and academic counselors that provide information on postsecondary education and career options;

(E) any other activity that advances knowledge of career opportunities and assists students in making informed decisions about future education and employment goals, including non-traditional fields; or

(F) providing students with strong experience in, and comprehensive understanding of, all aspects of an industry;

I would say that the SAE for All program has Ag Ed in a good place to meet every one of these requirements. We just need to capitalize on the opportunity that the new act provides us to drive this forward into application for every ag student. What is still present (here and elsewhere in the bill) is the challenge agriculture has when trying to show relevance when using labor data to indicate program need. This bill places a lot more decision making power at the state level but I don't see the labor data issue going away with development of new state plans.