

# Perkins V Accountability: Secondary CTE Concentrator

| CTE Concentrator Definition   |
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| A CTE concentrator is a secondary student who has completed at least two CTE courses in a single career pathway throughout high school. |

## Concentrator Definition Guidance:

For the first time in federal law, Perkins V now includes a formal Career and Technical Education (CTE) concentrator definition in the accountability system. Under the new law, a student who has completed (passed) a minimum of two CTE courses in a single career pathway throughout their high school career is considered a concentrator. The types of courses that qualify for this requirement are defined below.

Based on the new secondary CTE concentrator definition, how should districts report CTE concentrators?

- **Report CTE concentrators for students in grades 11 and 12:** In order to meet reporting requirements, districts should review and identify students in grades 11 and 12 who have met the secondary CTE concentrator definition as of the reporting year.
- **“Once a concentrator, always a concentrator”:** Once a student is reported as a CTE concentrator for the reporting year, districts should continue to report the student as a CTE concentrator in the next reporting year(s) until high school completion. This fulfills the “once a concentrator, always a concentrator” federal reporting requirement rule.
- **Identify CTE concentrators in the student information system (SIS) with concentrator details:** Depending on each district’s SIS vendor platform, flag or mark students as CTE concentrators for the reporting year in the SIS to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). In addition, districts should continue to report a single Instructional Area Code (IAC), a single career pathway, and program area(s) for each CTE concentrator student for the reporting year.
- To ensure **data reporting consistency and accuracy**, a single CTE course should be an equivalent of at least half a credit.

## CTE Course Guidance for Concentrators:

DPI recognizes the unique and vast local CTE course offerings and requirements at the district level. In an effort to accurately capture CTE concentrators based on the new Perkins V CTE concentrator definition, DPI highly encourages districts to review the following guidance when determining CTE courses for CTE concentrator data reporting.

When identifying and reporting CTE concentrators, local districts should ensure the two CTE courses progress from introductory to advanced and are specific to a single career pathway. Career pathway CTE courses should not include any:

- **CTE courses that are locally required for all students to take:** Any specific CTE courses that are required for all students and the student has no choice in selecting does not qualify as one of the two CTE courses when determining and reporting CTE concentrators. Examples of these types of courses **may** include:
  - Personal financial literacy courses
  - Keyboarding courses
  - Computer literacy courses

It is important to understand that CTE courses required of all students are different from a requirement that students take at least one CTE course. For example, some schools require all students to take at least one CTE course; however, those students get to *choose* that course. Therefore, that course may count as one of the two CTE courses when identifying concentrators because the student had the option to select the course.

- **Exploratory CTE courses:** Any CTE course where the content explores more than one career pathway does not qualify as one of the two CTE courses towards a student's concentrator status. For example:
  - Career exploration courses

Remember, a CTE course is a secondary course offered through the recognized Wisconsin program areas listed below and must be taught by an appropriately licensed CTE instructor for that specific discipline.

1. Agriculture and Natural Resources
2. Business and Information Technology
3. Family and Consumer Science
4. Health Science
5. Marketing Management and Entrepreneurship
6. Technology and Engineering

A course can only be recognized as a CTE course if it is taught by a licensed CTE teacher. There are multiple pathways to licensure to teach a CTE course, including [experience-based licensure in technical education](#). Additional information on license requirements and qualifications can be found [here](#).