

Perkins Funds Discussion – Are these purchases acceptable?

Several items were used as discussion examples during the October 9, 2012 Perkins Grant Contacts Meeting. Participants were asked to apply the following guiding questions to determine if the purchases would be allowable (*Note: these are not the only questions that might be needed when making a determination*):

- 1) Was the expense incurred during the grant period?
- 2) Does the purchase supplement (expand) or supplant (replace) local funds?
 - a. Is the item in question provided for non-CTE programs? (supplant)
 - b. Is there something unique/different about the item that will be provided to the CTE program? (supplement)
- 3) Will the purchase primarily benefit CTE students (i.e., specifically for a CTE program)?
- 4) (Consortia) Will/Could the purchase provide benefits to the consortium as a whole?
 - a. Will the purchase assist the consortium in meeting its performance indicators?
 - b. Will several consortia members share the item (e.g., professional development)?

The main point of the discussion was to show that, in many cases, a simple yes or no is not possible. With many items, you must consider situational aspects as well.

Example purchases:

- 1) Computers
- 2) Dues for CTSO students
- 3) Fee for a district's membership in a CTE organization
- 4) Maintenance contract or repairs to equipment originally purchased with Perkins dollars
- 5) Textbooks for a new course in a CTE program
- 6) Updated textbooks for an existing course in a CTE program
- 7) Registration fees for CTE teachers to participate in professional development required for all staff
- 8) Groceries for an FCS lab or welding rods for an IT lab
- 9) Materials promoting participation in nontraditional career fields
- 10) Prepayment for a conference for CTE staff that occurs in the next grant period
- 11) Software renewal – AutoCAD? Microsoft Office?
- 12) Leasing equipment