**Program Application, Approval and Review Workgroup Virtual Meeting**

August 5, 2019

**Workgroup Objectives**

* **Develop recommended updates to state policies and processes on program of study approval and review, using the Perkins V state plan.**
* Review outputs from other workgroups to determine the impact, if any, on program of study approval and review policy updates.
* Develop suggestions for state technical assistance and professional development related to program quality.

**Recap from the First Workgroup**

* Streamlining of the program of study process is needed
  + Do not lose the rigor
  + Want more consistency (in approval, fidelity of implementation)
  + Need more postsecondary involvement
* Consider statewide programs of study

**Discussion**

* Application:
  + Program of study application needs to be simple and short
    - Examine what is required federally for programs of study and the additional requirements Oregon added
      * The additional requirements from Oregon should be removed/reduced to simplify the application
  + CTE coordinators should lead the application process
  + Eliminate the replication that exists in the application
    - Ex: The same codes have to be written on multiple pages
* Renewal:
  + Program of study renewal process should be based on the high-quality rubric or a continuous improvement model, rather than a timeline (every four years)
  + Statewide programs of study and “individual” programs of study should be renewed at the same time
  + Renewal process needs to be agile to capture changes that happen in real time, such as instructors leaving or program changes
* Increase in postsecondary involvement should be maintained
* Sec/postsecondary alignment concerns:
  + Programs at the postsecondary level sometimes do not align with secondary programs, particularly in health science
  + Secondary institutions will build robust relationships with postsecondary institutions to ensure high-quality programs of study but then will eliminate their programs, so then there are no programs that align with the postsecondary institutions’ programs

**Oregon Department of Education Updates**

* Program Quality Matrix
  + ODE is in the process of editing the program quality matrix
* New application
  + Regional coordinator will start the application and submit the application to ODE
  + The data in the application can carry over during the renewal process
  + If a program at the community college were to be terminated, the high school will have a year from that date to find another community college partner in that career area before they would also have to terminate the program at the high school level
    - ODE to discuss whether the community college will have a year to find a new high school program if the high school program is terminated
  + Application will examine how programs are addressing equity/access

**Opportunities within Perkins V**

* Definition of program of study
  + Incorporates academic standards
  + Technical standards and employability skills
  + Aligned to needs of industry
  + Progresses in specificity
  + Multiple exit and entry points
  + Culminates in attained of a recognized postsecondary credential
* State Plan
  + Process and criteria for approving POS
  + Fund only POS?
    - In the past, Oregon primarily only funded POS
  + Use of labor market information to determine alignment of needs of employers
  + Equitable access (and outcomes) to POS
* State leadership – permissible uses of funds
  + Develop statewide programs of study
  + Approving locally developed programs of study
* Local application
  + Require not less than one program of study aligned to needs assessment outcomes

**Leveraging Perkins**

1. How should Oregon leverage Perkins to support streamlining the program of study approval, review, and renewal processes?

* All Perkins funding go to programs of study only?
* Any additions to the Perkins definition of a program of study?

Discussion

* Not a federal requirement that Perkins only be spent on programs of study
  + Suggestion: leverage high school success funds to support programs that are not programs of study
* Majority of funding should go be used to fund programs of study with the exception of broadening the pool of resources for career awareness and guidance
* State definition of a program of study
  + Culminate in attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential
    - The expectation is that a program of study spans the secondary and postsecondary system and the attainment of the postsecondary credential occurs at then end of the program of study in the postsecondary system
      * Only exception is that Perkins V contains a line about multiple entrance and exit points in Perkins V. If there is a credential that can be earned in the secondary system that is a “bonus add”
  + Oregon added the number of credits that are required- learner had to acquire 3 credits within a program of study to for the program to be awarded funds
  + Since the state definition is aligned with the federal definition, there is not much desire to change it

2. How should postsecondary be engaged in program of study development, approval, review and renewal?

* Joint development and approval?

Discussion

* At the postsecondary level, programs are tracked as CTE programs and not programs of study in postsecondary systems
  + A postsecondary program is a program of study if it aligns with a high school program, and thus is eligible for Perkins funding
* Concerns about alignment between secondary and postsecondary institutions
  + Suggestion that postsecondary institutions be more involved in the development of programs
    - Concerns that little is required from postsecondary institutions, so it’s easy to “check the boxes” and invest little resources into programs
  + Alignment between secondary and postsecondary is relationship-based
    - Robust secondary/postsecondary relationships do exist in Oregon in some places
    - Alignment can occur through requirements/institutionalization
      * ODE concerned about adding additional requirements, as this may not streamline the application process
      * Concerns about having to “prove” relationships and how this will affect capacity
    - Concerns that sometimes secondary institutions can be unresponsive
* Concerns that faculty at the postsecondary level may not understand what a program of study is
  + There is a need to educate faculty
* Concerns that since a lot of faculty are part-time, it will be difficult for someone at that level to take a lead on this work
* Two separate processes for application approval (school board and ODE processes)

3. Should Oregon develop statewide program of study?

* If yes, should statewide be the norm or should locally developed still be allowed?
* If yes, how should Oregon leverage Perkins to support statewide programs of study (and fidelity of implementation)?

Discussion:

* There is an allowance in the leadership funds for states to use Perkins to support statewide programs of study
* State example: In Maryland, programs of study are conceived, designed and developed at the state level. Any local who wants to adopt these programs of study can “fast track” to implementation (this reduces paperwork)

**What’s next?**

* Virtual meeting – focus on review of other workgroups
  + September 9: 2 – 3:15 pm PT
* Another in person meeting
  + October 8 or 9