



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON THE
PERKINS V PLAN
DECEMBER 4, 2019**

The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) is a federation of the state's local boards of education and includes the majority of New Jersey's charter schools as associate members. NJSBA provides training, advocacy and support to advance public education and promote the achievement of all students through effective governance.

The NJSBA has several beliefs about career and technical education. NJSBA believes that:

- Local boards of education should place emphasis on career awareness and supports integrating career education throughout the curriculum.
- Collaborative initiatives at the local and state level by business, labor and educational agencies will enhance career counseling and benefit youth.
- Students should have access to a wide array of programs that promote career awareness and develop workplace readiness skills as well as trade and technical skills for specific career paths. Local boards of education, county vocational school boards of education and representatives from business and industry should work collaboratively to plan and develop and deliver programs that meet the needs of students in the most effective and efficient manner.

Among its goals, the draft Perkins V plan seeks to: 1) Provide local communities with a stronger voice in education policy decisions; 2) Increase access to STEM and Computer Science curricula; 3) Expand career readiness through the New Jersey Apprenticeship Network and career pathways; and, 4) Expand access to community colleges for high school students.

The NJSBA supports these goals of the draft plan because they will increase career awareness, create more collaboration among business, educational agencies and the community, and improve students' access to the programs and skills needed for a diverse and well-qualified workforce.

The NJSBA encourages the New Jersey Department of Education to ensure that there is the necessary funding to meet all of the goals of its ambitious Perkins V plan.