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Subject: CSDE Update: 05-19-25: 2025–26 Perkins V Intent to Apply Survey; Industry-Recognized Credentials; Annual School Staff Appreciation Digital Backpack Program; Education PSA: Finish the Year Strong

Good afternoon, Superintendents. Please see below and attached for today's updates.

2025-26 Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Intent to Apply

The 2025–26 [Perkins V Intent to Apply Survey](#) is now open. Eligible recipients interested in applying for Perkins V Funding for the 2025–26 school year must complete the survey by **Friday, June 13, 2025**, at 5:00 p.m. Please see the attached memo for additional information. If you have questions, please contact Kyllie Freeman at Kyllie.Freeman@ct.gov.

Industry-Recognized Credentials: Registry, Data Collection, and Reporting

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), in partnership with the Office of Workforce Strategy, the Department of Labor, public school districts, institutions of higher education, and regional workforce development boards is creating a process to identify and validate non-degree industry-recognized credentials (IRCs). This collaborative effort will lead to the establishment of Connecticut's Credential Registry. School districts will be able to use the Registry to help guide students toward career pathways that align with real-world job opportunities, effectively bridging the gap between classroom learning and workforce expectations. The CSDE will also be collecting data on IRCs earned by students in high school. These data will be collected starting with the 2025-26 school year through the Student Achievement Module (SAM) in the Teacher Course Student (TCS) application. At a minimum, these data will be reported through EdSight. Additional information about the Credential Registry and accompanying data collection and reporting will be provided in early September. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Amaker at karen.amaker@ct.gov.

Launch of the Fourth Annual School Staff Appreciation Digital Backpack Program

The Fourth Annual School Staff Appreciation Digital Backpack Program is now open for businesses to opt-in and provide discounts to all PK-12 school staff, including Adult Education program staff, from June through September. To learn more and sign up to participate, go to <https://portal.ct.gov/digitalbackpack>. To spread the word, feel free to share with your community the above link, as well as the Commissioner's video message on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhHoXCgXLBA>).

EDUCATION PSA: Finish the Year Strong, In School, Together, Every Day!

As the school year nears its end, every remaining day is a crucial opportunity for student learning and connection. Schools, families, and communities are working strategically in partnership to encourage attendance and celebrate progress, and we continue to amplify those efforts. Please share this video PSA (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OC4lgrZ2YNU>) to encourage strong attendance throughout the end of the

school year, uplift local attendance champions, and remind your communities: *when students are present and engaged, they succeed.*



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