



FCCLA Policy Brief

Importance of Family and Consumer Sciences in Perkins Reauthorization

There are over 160,000 members of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), representing thousands of constituents in each state. As a career and technical student organization, FCCLA promotes personal growth and leadership development through Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) education. FCCLA programs help thousands of students across the country with career preparation and workforce development skills. FCCLA and FCS helps students advance in careers such as human services, hospitality and tourism, education and training, and visual arts and design.

FCCLA student leaders are gathering in Washington for leadership and advocacy training this week. These students are meeting with their legislators to demonstrate the importance and positive impact that federal funding for career and technical education has had on their lives. This funding, previously known as the Carl D. Perkins 2006 law, has now been renamed “The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act” and is currently up for reauthorization in the Senate. This legislation is critical to support career and technical education in every state (see enclosed “How States Use Perkins”). As part of the original Perkins Act, states could utilize Perkins funding for Consumer and Homemaking Education (now referred to as Family and Consumer Sciences). Unfortunately, as Perkins legislation updates have progressed, this critical reference to Family and Consumer Sciences has been removed. Today, many Family and Consumer Sciences programs include balancing work and life instruction and offer specialized occupational training. If Family and Consumer Sciences wording is removed as proposed, the work and life component may be lost, even as society and business proves this instructional need to be great.

It is critical that legislators show their support for career and technical education and Family and Consumer Sciences by funding this reauthorization with the inclusion of language for Family and Consumer Sciences. This support impacts thousands of teens in every state by helping them prepare to be college, career, and life ready. Perkins funding is important to every state and to our country, and there is a critical need to complete Perkins reauthorization this year. Perkins funding enables Family and Consumer Sciences programs and FCCLA chapters to obtain the programs and training they need to compete in the 21st century workforce. By funding quality technical education programming, policymakers help the United States workforce compete in a global economy.

FCCLA seeks your support for The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act and asks that you seek to add the language of inclusion of the permissible use of funds for Family and Consumer Sciences. When you hear in the news a call to “bring back Home Economics,” know that it is still very much alive and well as Family and Consumer Sciences. Your support can help this generation learn the essentials to become successful in their families, careers and communities.

To learn more visit www.fcclainc.org or contact 703-476-4900 or national@fcclainc.org.

Resources:

Families and Work Institute – familiesandwork.org

Association for Career and Technical Education – actonline.org