

The American Diploma Project (ADP) and The New Carl D. Perkins Act

Achieve, Inc., a nonprofit organization created in 1996 by state governors and business leaders, focuses on efforts to increase the rigor of high school to better prepare students for success in college and work. The American Diploma Project (ADP) is an Achieve initiative, which focuses explicitly on developing high school curriculum to ensure that all high school graduates are prepared to be successful in college and the workplace (Achieve, 2008). The ADP Network consists of 32 states committed to these standards of rigorous curriculum. Recently, Achieve published a report examining the similar goals and methods of the renewed Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Act of 2006. The focus of ADP and Career and Technical Education (CTE) are remarkably aligned and together can help students increase the rigor of high school curriculum.

The report highlights how the renewed Perkins Act concurs with ADP, specifically the Act's renewed emphasis on academic course taking for CTE students. As advocated in the ADP, the Perkins Act states that CTE students need to be encouraged to take academic programs of study that meet the prerequisites for admission to college. Moreover, these programs should provide opportunities for high school students to earn college credit. Another important change to the Act was the introduction of expanded accountability data and targets to ensure the programs are effectively preparing students and maintaining America's competitiveness in the global economy:

- Aligning and integrating of academic content standards
- Using program of study to encourage student preparation for college and career readiness
- Measuring technical skill attainment to determine Work Readiness
- Aligning accountability for results

Counselors are key personnel in developing personalized plans of study for every student to optimize the rigor of their course enrollment. Counselors can be essential partners with CTE and Curriculum and Instruction Offices to draw more attention and resources to better align curriculum for college and workplace readiness and assure administrators that all students are being seriously considered for rigorous coursework.

To view the complete report please visit <http://www.achieve.org/node/984>.

Reference

Achieve (2008). *About Achieve*. Downloaded March 5, 2008 from <http://www.achieve.org/node/337>.

“State ADP [American Diploma Project] teams can support the development of Program of Study and support policies that give all high school students, not just CTE participants, the opportunity to create a personalized plan of study that includes a rigorous academic core paired with courses focusing on an identified career interest.”