How Do the Perkins Indicator Reports Compare to LaunchBoard Data?

Colleges are required to set goals for student outcomes on a number of Core Indicators for funding provided by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act (Perkins). While there is an overlap in metrics between the Perkins reports and the LaunchBoard, these metrics are calculated in very different ways.

Congress is currently working to reauthorize Perkins funding, and it is likely that the Perkins metrics will be aligned with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) metrics as part of this process. The LaunchBoard uses WIOA definitions wherever possible, in anticipation of this change and because the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) metrics are required by law to be aligned with WIOA.

Which students are included in the cohort?

Perkins Reports
Because Perkins reports are designed to establish funding based on student outcomes, the cohort of students has been set to include students who are seeking to attain those goals. Specifically, the Perkins cohort is limited to students who took one or more credit-bearing vocational courses, had a valid social security number, did not enroll in K-12, have not previously earned a post-secondary credential, and either completed 12+ vocational units in the same two-digit TOP code within the previous three years (where at least one course was non-introductory) or earned a vocational certificate or degree.

LaunchBoard
The LaunchBoard is designed to provide an annual snapshot on college programs, thus it uses a more expansive definition of whom to include compared to Perkins. Students appear in the LaunchBoard if they have taken one or more courses in the selected TOP code in the selected year, without taking into account their social security number, K-12 participation, or prior enrollments and awards. Also, while the LaunchBoard began with a CTE focus, information is provided on all college TOP codes.

Which metrics are included?

Perkins Reports
Perkins reports focus on five Core Indicators: technical skills attainment; earned a credential, certificate or degree; persistence or transfer; job placement; and nontraditional participation and completion. Information on metric definitions are posted on the [Chancellor's Office Perkins website](), under "Documentation."

LaunchBoard
The LaunchBoard includes nearly 100 metrics designed to address a variety of questions about program and student outcomes. Some of these overlap—such as completion and transfer—but most metrics are provided at a more granular level. For example, the LaunchBoard shows students who earned a certificate or degree and transfers as separate categories and do not co-mingle these figures with other Perkins "credential, certificate, or degree" components like attaining transfer-ready status. Information on metric definitions are posted on the [LaunchBoard landing page](), under the "Find out More about the data in the LaunchBoard" link at the bottom of the page.

What types of disaggregations are included?

Perkins Reports

The Perkins legislation mandates that colleges report on a number of special populations, including: gender, nontraditional students, displaced homemakers, economically disadvantaged, limited English proficiency, single parents, students with disabilities, and Tech Prep status.

LaunchBoard

There is some overlap in disaggregations, including gender, students with disabilities, and limited English proficiency. The LaunchBoard includes many additional disaggregations, including students who took non-introductory courses, skills-builders, exiters, race/ethnicity, age group, foster youth, veterans, first-generation students, ever received financial aid, ever took basic skills English or math course, first-time status, returning after an absence, ever attended another college in the same pathway, previously received a community college award, previously graduated from a four-year institution, and previously took a high school CTE course.

Will Perkins and the LaunchBoard be aligned in the future?

Once the federal definitions for Perkins are updated and guidelines are established for reporting, the Chancellor's Office will review whether and how to align information in the Perkins reports and the LaunchBoard.