



Agency Priority Goal (APG) Action Plan

Multiple Pathways to Success

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APG Deputy Goal Leader: Casey Sacks, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges, OCTAE

Overview

Goal Statement

Impact Statement

Improve nationwide awareness of and access to career pathways that support job skills development and career readiness.

Achievement Statement

By September 30, 2021, the Department will, through programs such as the Career and Technical Education and Adult Education State Grants:

- Support the creation and expansion of integrated education and training (IET) programs in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.
- Increase by 70,000 participants enrollment in IET programs.
- Increase by 10 percent enrollment of Career and Technical Education concentrators in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.
- Increase by 25,000 the number of federal financial aid recipients who earn a postsecondary credential in STEM.

Overview

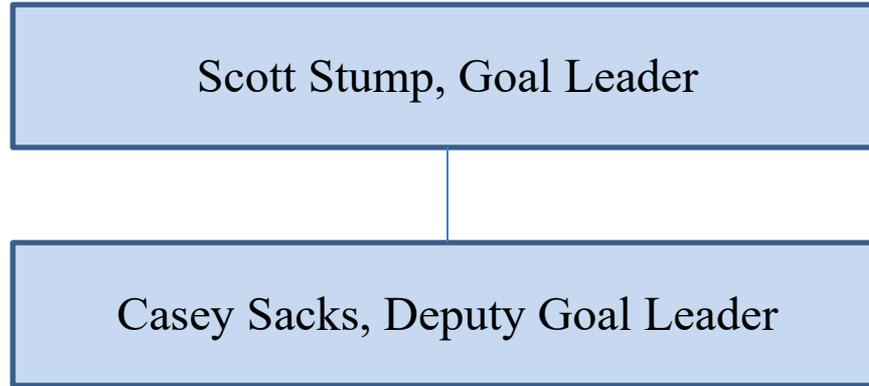
Challenge

- Offering IET programs is optional for states, and IET is challenging to implement.
- A strong economy has reduced the number of adults seeking education and training to improve their skills.
- Many factors influence the educational and career choices of students.

Opportunity

- A significant proportion of available jobs require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree.
- Increasing participation in IET and STEM programs can help to close the skills gap and promote continued economic growth.
- IET programs can accelerate the transition of low-skilled adults to in-demand jobs, moving more Americans from the sidelines into the workforce.

Leadership



Goal Structure & Strategies

The goal is a two-year Agency Priority Goal (APG) covering FY 2020 and FY 2021.

To achieve the goal, the Department will:

- Provide comprehensive and intensive technical assistance to all states to support the development and expansion of IET opportunities in the Adult Education State Grant program, as well as in correctional settings.
- Promote the integration of applied STEM instruction in high school career and technical education (CTE) programs and expose students to careers in technology and aerospace by launching the CTE CubeSat Challenge, which will encourage high school CTE students to compete to build cube satellite prototypes that will be launched into orbit by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- Support efforts to train high school CTE teachers to deliver CTE programs of study in cybersecurity.
- Make competitive grants to state education agencies (SEAs) to increase students' access to career pathways that provide opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials or complete an apprenticeship, internship, or other career pathway program (Out-of-School Time Career Pathways Grants).
- Promote the 2020 campaign by the Ad Council and the American Workforce Policy Advisory Board to strengthen public awareness of the wide variety of postsecondary skills development pathways available.

Summary of Progress – FY 2020 Q1

Throughout Q1, OCTAE worked with its technical assistance contractor to draft a framework for an integrated education and training (IET) design toolkit to support states' implementation and scaling of IET in adult education. The IET design toolkit will be supported by IET design camps (intensive training) to be available for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

OCTAE hosted an IET Symposium that was attended by over 40 local, state, and Federal adult education staff in addition to nationally recognized experts around IET and career pathway programming. The goals of the Symposium were to better understand the challenges and progress around IET implementation as well as to identify emerging models and best practices. The Symposium was intended to inform the technical assistance resources being developed for OCTAE's IET design toolkit and training to be rolled out later in 2020 as well as inform future policy to support IET implementation.

Summary of Progress – FY 2020 Q2

Several key milestones have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in the need to delay their respective planned milestone date.

For example, OCTAE had to delay the launch of the Career and Technical Education CubeSat Challenge, which will encourage and help high school CTE students compete to design and build cube satellite prototypes that will be deployed on a balloon flight, in collaboration with National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The delay in launching the CubeSat Challenge directly results in the need to change the date for announcing the CubeSat Challenge finalists as well.

Similarly, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, OCTAE had to delay the scheduled in-person national meeting of state directors of adult education.

Finally, because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on service delivery, OCTAE would propose adjustments to the key indicators related to Integrated Education and Training Enrollments in the Adult Education State Grant Program and Secondary CTE Concentrators in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and Related Fields.

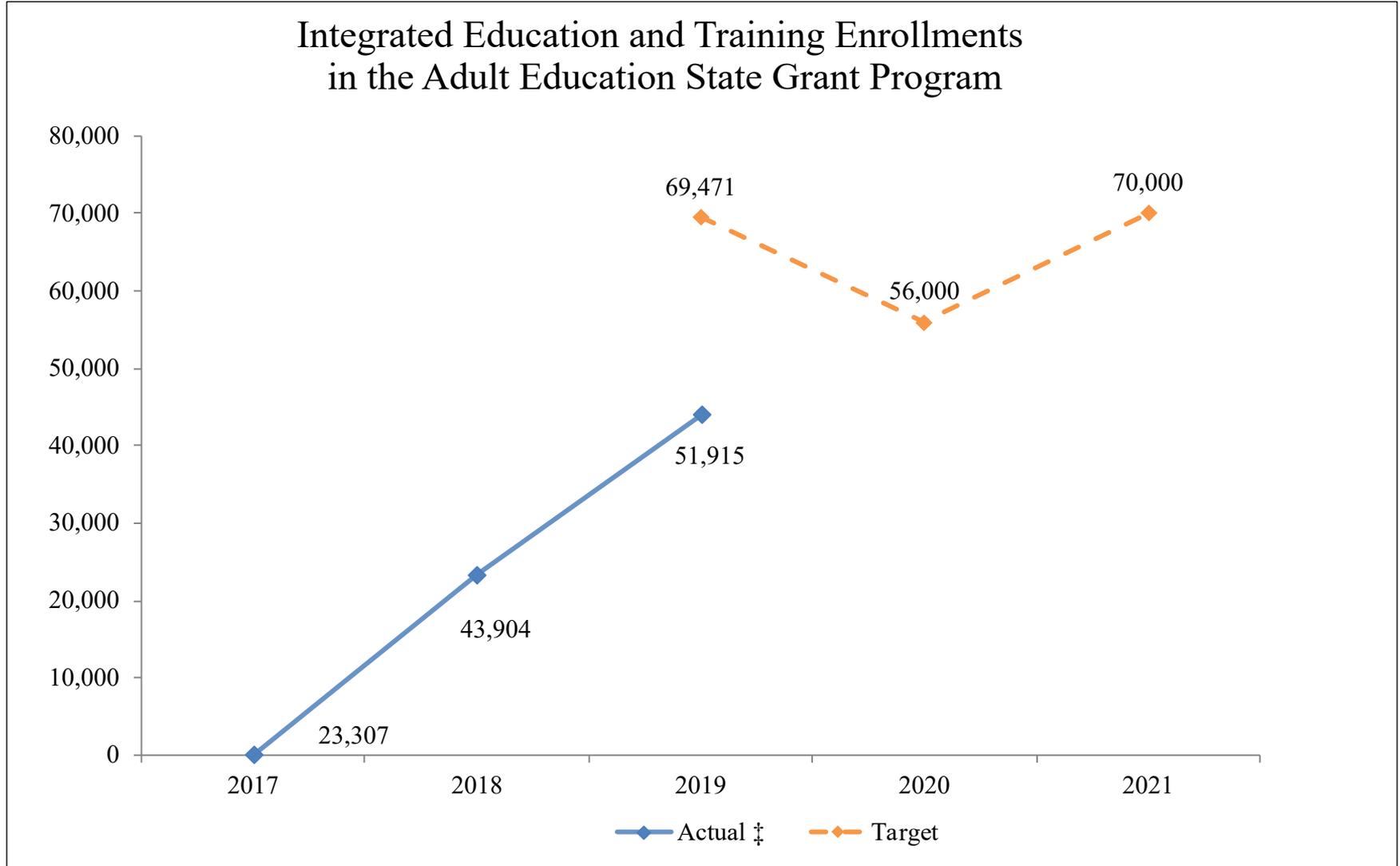
Key Milestones

Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Comments
Award contract to support intensive technical assistance to all states to promote the growth of IET opportunities (IET Design Camps).	Q4 2019	Completed	
Provide training and technical assistance on IET at national meeting of state directors of adult education.	Q3 2020	Delayed	TBD - Perhaps Q1 2021 @ NTI
Pilot test IET Design Camp Training and Toolkit with five state teams.	Q4 2020/Q1 2021	Pending	
Award technical assistance contract to promote IET in correctional settings.	Q4 2020	Pending	
Begin convening regional IET Design Camps for all states.	Q1 2021/Q2 2021	Pending	
Begin technical assistance to promote IET in correctional settings.	Q2 2021	Pending	
Continue convening regional IET Design Camps for all states.	Q3/4 2021	Pending	

Key Milestones

Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Comments
Ad Council and the American Workforce Policy Advisory Board launch national campaign to promote multiple pathways.	Q2 2020	Delayed	Looking at a possible summer launch
Launch CTE CubeSat Challenge for high school students on Challenge.gov.	Q2 2020	Delayed	Revising Milestone Due Date to Q4 2020
Announce CTE CubeSat Challenge Finalists.	Q3 2020	Delayed	Revising Milestone Due Date to Q1 2021
Convene regional CTE Cybernet Academies to train high school CTE teachers to design and deliver cybersecurity programs.	Q4 2020	Pending	
Award Out-of-School Time Career Pathways Grants to SEAs.	Q4 2020	Revised	Revising Milestone Due Date to Q1 2021; OESE will use FY 2021 funds
Continue to prioritize STEM in discretionary grant notices inviting applications.	Q4 2020	Pending	

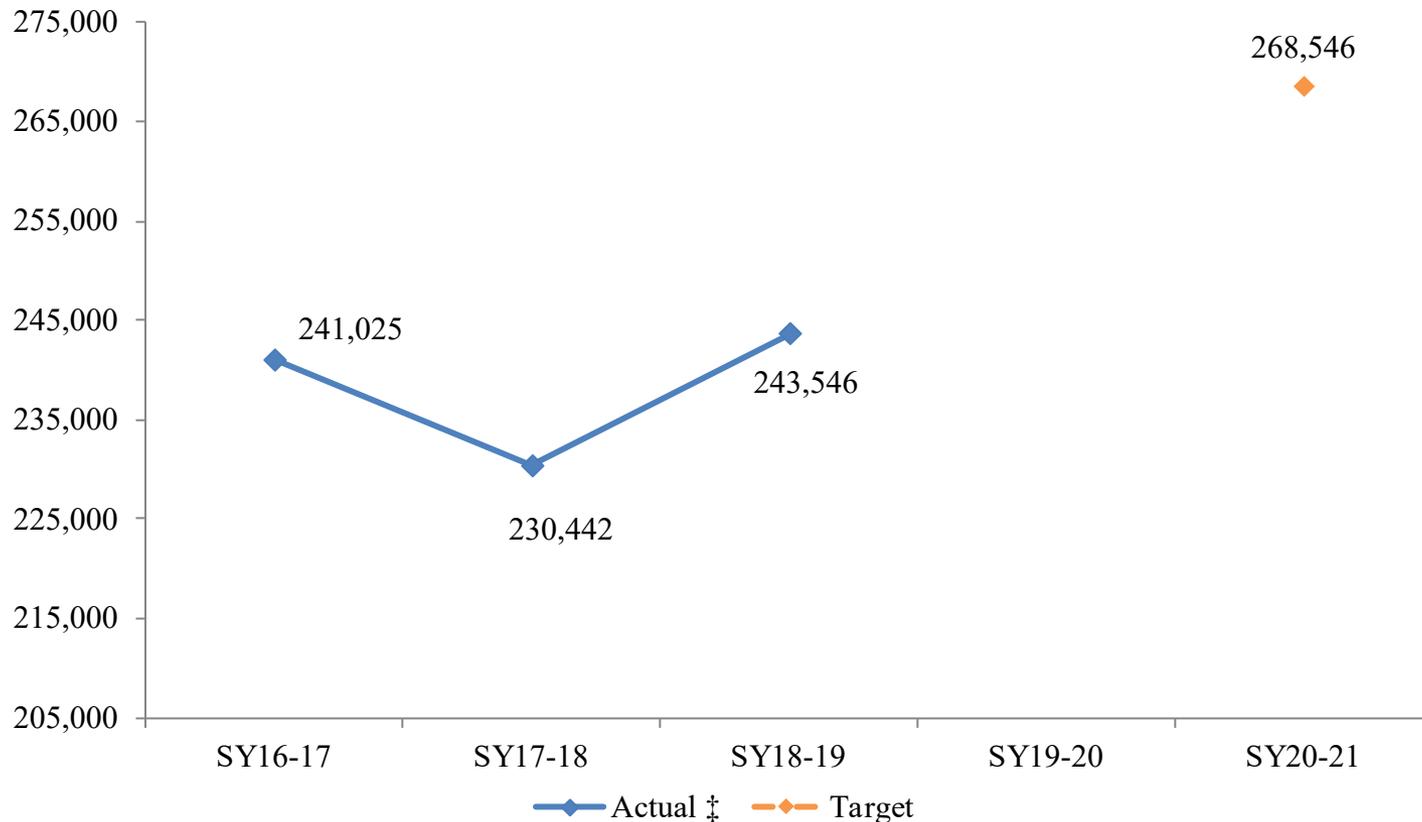
Key Indicators



‡ In Program Year 2018-19, there were 51,915 enrollments in integrated education and training programs funded by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act .Source: National Reporting System for Adult Education.

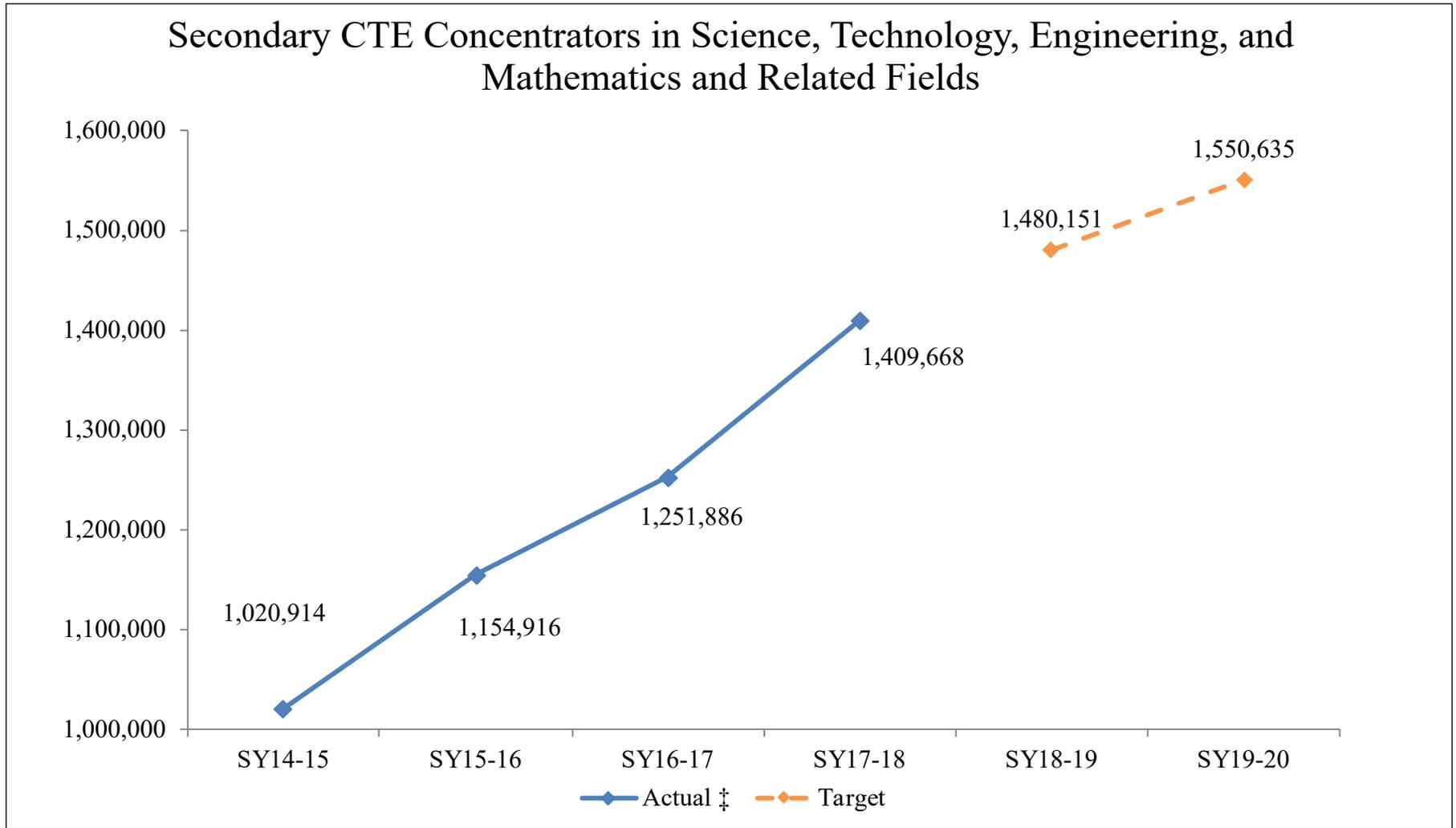
Key Indicators

Title IV Recipients Who Were Awarded Postsecondary Degrees and Certificates in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields



‡In School Year 2018-2019, 243,546 students who received federal financial aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act were awarded certificates or degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. STEM fields include agriculture and related sciences, natural resources and conservation, computer and information sciences, engineering, engineering technologies/technicians, biological and biomedical sciences, mathematics and statistics, physical sciences, and science technologies/technicians. Source: National Student Loan Data System as of December 13, 2019.

Key Indicators



‡For the 2017-18 school year, states reported that 1,409,668 secondary students concentrated their studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), as well as agriculture; food and natural resources; health science; and information technology. Source: State Consolidated Annual Reports, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (Perkins V).

Data Accuracy and Reliability

- States certify the accuracy of data on IET enrollments and OCTAE staff verify and validate data through desk monitoring, on-site reviews, and technical assistance.
- States certify the accuracy of data on secondary CTE concentrators and OCTAE staff verify and validate data through desk monitoring, on-site reviews, and technical assistance.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Organizations

- Department of Education: Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) and Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)
- State agencies administering the programs for career and technical education and for adult education state grants
- Subrecipients of the programs for career and technical education and for adult education state grants
- State education agencies receiving Out-of-School Time Career Pathways Grants

Program Activities

- Technical assistance and professional development
- Competitive grants
- Challenges

Regulations

- Adult education state grant regulations on IET (34 CFR part 463, subpart D)

Additional Information

Other federal activities

- National Council for the American Worker

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

The Department conducted congressional consultation as part of the development of the *U.S. Department of Education's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-22*, the FY 2018-2019 APGs, and the FY 2020-2021 APGs.