



## 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

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## 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.
- Due to the challenges of offering virtual integrated education training (IET) programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of WIOA adult participants enrolled in IET programs will be affected in school year 2019-2020, which is reported in FY 2021. Therefore the FY 2021 target for enrollment of participants in IET programs will remain at 56,000.
- Support the 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

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## Challenge

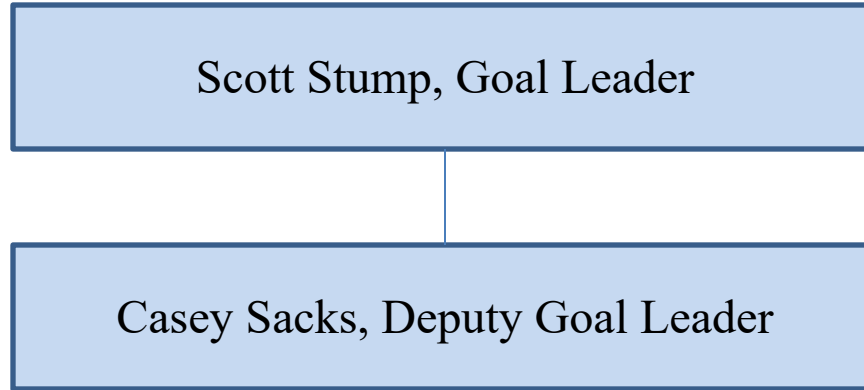
- Offering IET programs is optional for states, and IET is challenging to implement.
- Many factors influence the educational and career choices of students.
- Social distancing requirements implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have affected the ability of career and technical education program providers to offer in-person courses.

## 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

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# Goal Structure & Strategies

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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 Q4

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- During Q4, the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education's (OCTAE) contractor began working with the two states that had requested postponements due to COVID-19 and is therefore now actively engaged with 12 local programs in four states (AZ, IN, KY, and OR). Each state is piloting technology-based coaching strategies to support student retention and outcomes while programs operate remotely during the pandemic. The project is on schedule to share lessons learned with all states through a new toolkit to be made available in late 2021.
- For adult education, OCTAE's Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS) continued to make the integration of workforce preparation activities into academic instruction a priority. As a result of a contract re-competition, the LINCS transitioned to a new contractor during Q4. Still, during that time, OCTAE was able to work through another contract to update its Employability Skills Framework and add new online technical assistance tools for adult educators to the LINCS.
- During Q4, the Teaching Skills that Matter (TSTM) project launched two new cohorts in the now virtual TSTM professional development. TSTM helps adult education instructors integrate employability skills development with academic instruction. The project team successfully completed converting pilot training materials to an online platform and is now working with state teams in 23 states. Professional learning activities will continue virtually into FY 2021 Q3.
- On September 24, 2020, OCTAE launched its ReTHINK Adult Education challenge. With a prize pool of \$750,000, OCTAE anticipates that at least 100 new pre-apprenticeship programs with adult education programs partnering with employers and/or apprenticeship sponsoring organizations will be created by summer 2021.

# Summary of Progress – FY 2020 Q4

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- In Q4, OCTAE launched its integrated education and training (IET) design toolkit and virtual training institute to support states' implementation and scaling of IET in adult education. The IET design toolkit and training support ED's Annual Performance Goal of achieving 56,000 participant enrollment in IET by assisting states' implementation and scaling of IET in adult education. These virtual technical assistance materials are currently being piloted with five states (AZ, ID, IN, TN, and VA). Upon pilot completion in December 2020, the virtual training and toolkit will be made available to all 50 states.
- In Q4, following summer intensive training academies, two of the three CTE CyberNet academies kicked off technical assistance accelerators that will run through 2020-2021 school year. Participating teachers will receive ongoing focused technical training; support to create dual-credit pathways with host institutions; peer networking opportunities; and coaching. The academies will also feature a guest speaker series to include the winners of the inaugural Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award and representatives of organizations providing in-demand industry certifications.

# Key Milestones

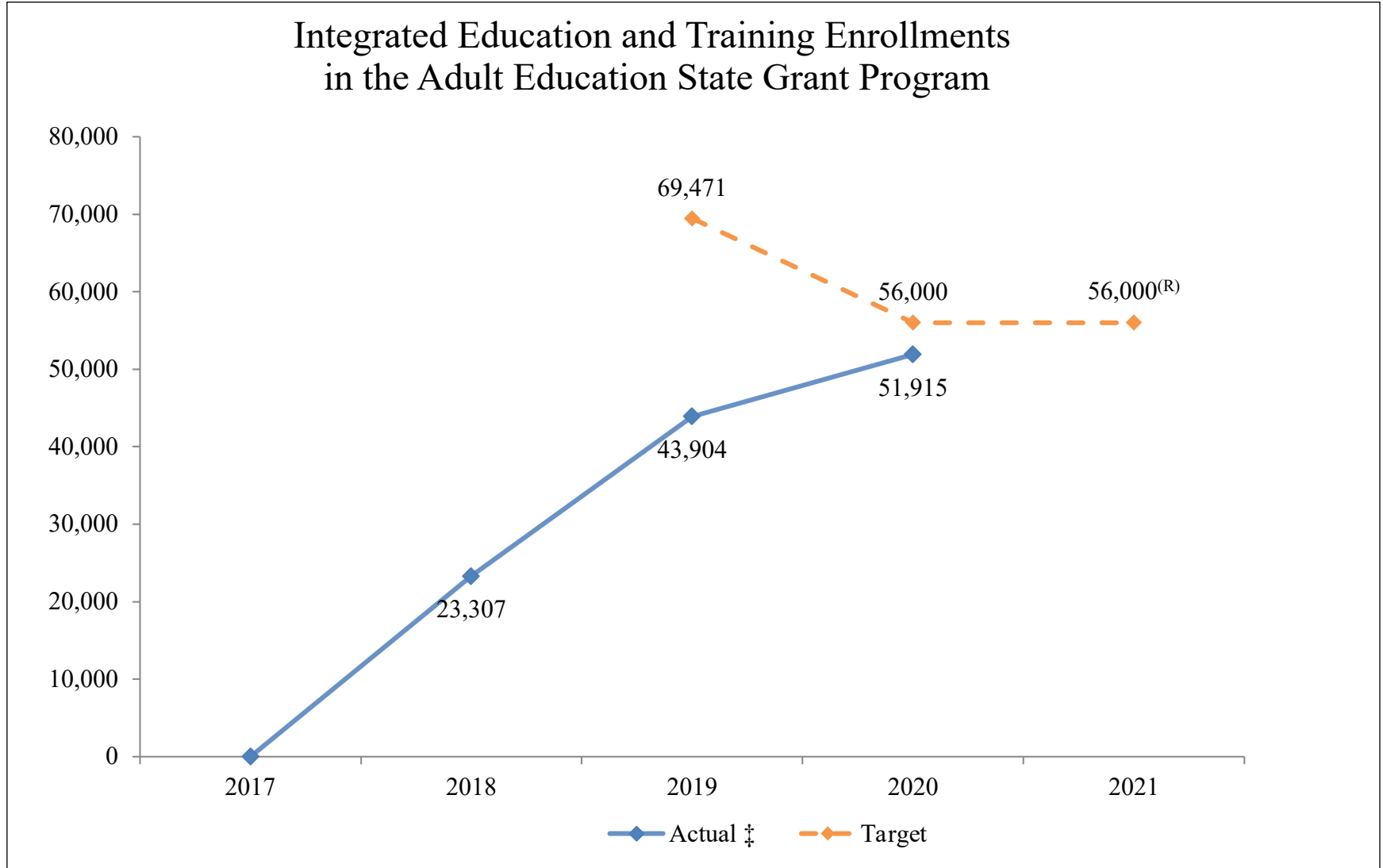
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Comments
Award contract to support intensive technical assistance to all states to promote the growth of IET opportunities (IET Design Camps).	Q4 2019	Completed	
Provide training and technical assistance on IET at national meeting of state directors of adult education.	Q3 2020	Delayed	Due to COVID-19, the in-person meeting for Q3 was postponed and rescheduled for Q1 2021 at state directors' National Training Institute.
Pilot test IET Design Camp Training and Toolkit with five state teams.	Q4 2020/Q1 2021	Pending	The IET design camp pilot successfully kicked off with AZ, ID, IN, TN, and VA in the pilot.
Award technical assistance contract to promote IET in correctional settings.	Q4 2020	Completed	Contract awarded to RTI International at the end of August 2020. First listening session was held in October 2020.
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	Completed	Announced <a href="#">“Find Something New”</a> Initiative on July 14, 2020.
Launch CTE CubeSat Challenge for high school students on Challenge.gov.	Q2 2020	Completed	CTE CubeSat Challenge launched on August 18, 2020.
Announce CTE CubeSat Challenge Finalists.	Q3 2020	Pending	Due to COVID-19, OCTAE postponed the launch of the CTE CubeSat Challenge, the anticipated announcement for the CTE CubeSat Challenge Finalist will be in December 2020.
Convene regional CTE Cybernet Academies to train high school CTE teachers to design and deliver cybersecurity programs.	Q4 2020	Pending	Two of the three CTE CyberNet academies kicked off TA accelerators. South Dakota Academy accelerator has been delayed due to public health restrictions in the area and is expected to resume in December 2020.
Award Out-of-School Time Career Pathways Grants to SEAs.	Q4 2020	Revised	Revising Milestone Due Date to Q1 2021; The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education will use FY 2021 funds.
Continue to prioritize STEM in discretionary grant notices inviting applications.	Q4 2020	Completed	STEM priority was in 11 notices awarding a combined total of \$708,629,896.

# Key Indicators

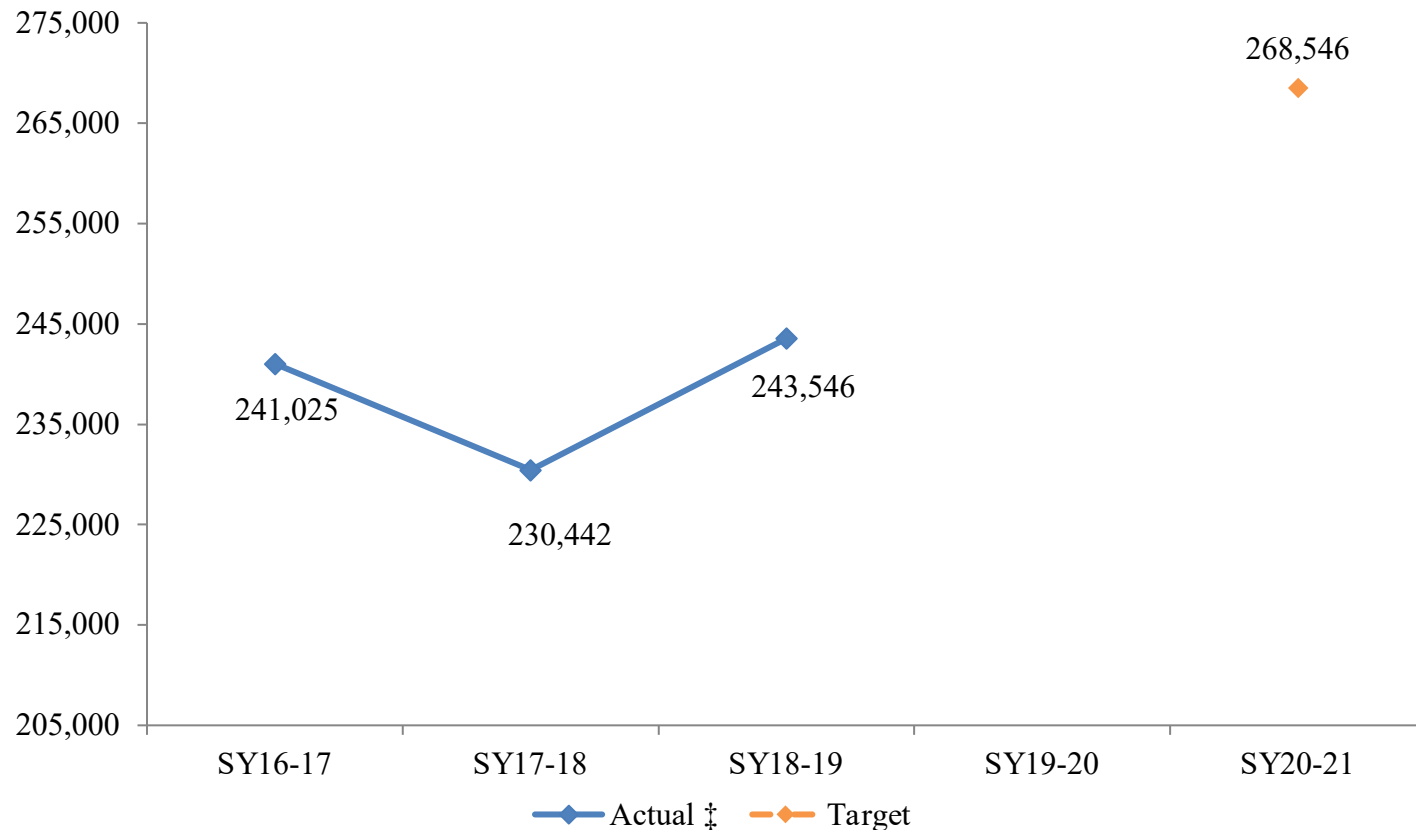


‡ In Program Year 2018-19, there were 51,915 enrollments in integrated education and training programs funded by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act .Source: National Reporting System for Adult Education.

<sup>(R)</sup> Revised FY 2021 target due to the challenges of offering virtual courses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

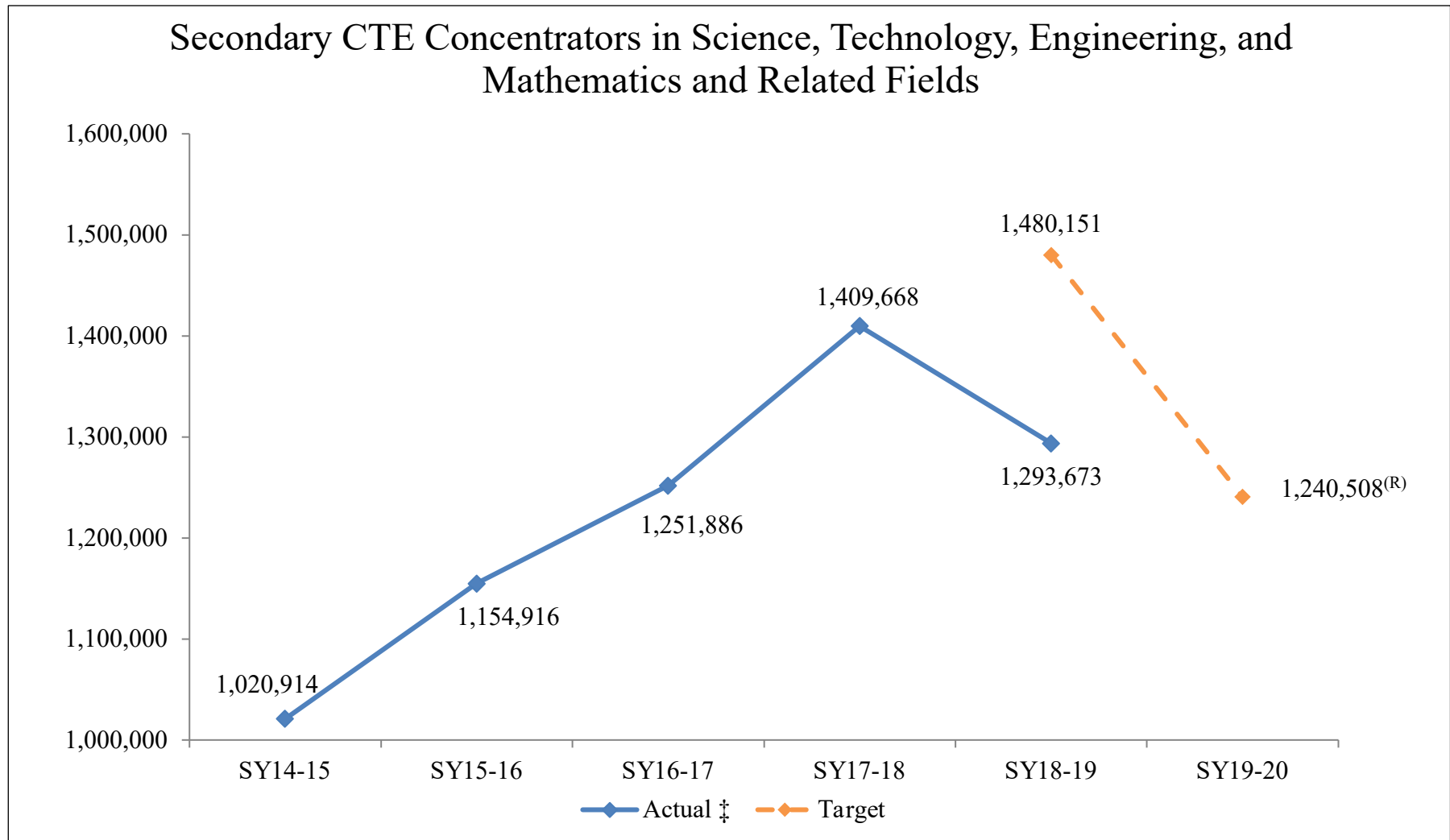
# Key Indicators

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).

<sup>(R)</sup> Revised FY 2021 target due to the challenges of offering hands-on courses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Data Accuracy and Reliability

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- 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

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## 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

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## 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.