



100 Years of Impact

1917

Smith-Hughes Act

First federal law to fund vocational education — identified Home Economics (FCS) as a vocation and provided states with financial aid for FCS programs.

1909

Home Economics Established

Ellen Swallow Richards and colleagues founded the American Home Economics Association (now AAFCS), marking the start of Family and Consumer Sciences as a professional field.

1970s

FCS Expands in Schools

Curriculum included career planning, consumer finance, human development, parenthood education, clothing, food preparation, and housing — broadening the reach of FCS in K-12.

1990s

Transition to “Family and Consumer Sciences”

The profession adopted the modern title “Family and Consumer Sciences” to reflect its expanded scope: preparing individuals for success at work, at home, and in communities.

1998

Carl D. Perkins Act

Congress reaffirmed funding for CTE, including FCS programs, and set accountability requirements for program performance.

2000s

Loss of Career Cluster Status

FCS was removed from the Department of Education’s recognized career clusters list, resulting in reduced federal funding and a decline in some FCS programs and educators.

2018

Perkins V Act

Signed into law on July 31, Perkins V highlighted employability skills and explicitly recognized Family and Consumer Sciences as a source of integrated career readiness.

TODAY

A People-Centered Science

FCS continues as the only content in public schools dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families, equipping students with the central skills needed to thrive in work, family, and community life.