

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2084

To include community partners and intermediaries in the planning and delivery of education and related programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Mr. WHITEHOUSE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To include community partners and intermediaries in the planning and delivery of education and related programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Community Partnerships in Education Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2006

Sec. 101. Definitions.

Sec. 102. Attainment of 21st century skills.

Sec. 103. Inclusion of community partners and intermediary organizations in State and local plans.

Sec. 104. Evaluations.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF
1965

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Sec. 202. TRIO programs.

Sec. 203. GEAR UP.

Sec. 204. Maintenance and expansion of existing programs.

1 **TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE**
2 **CARL D. PERKINS CAREER**
3 **AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**
4 **ACT OF 2006**

5 **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

6 Section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
7 nical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302) is amend-
8 ed—

9 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through
10 (18) and paragraphs (19) through (34) as para-
11 graphs (10) through (19) and paragraphs (21)
12 through (36), respectively;

13 (2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
14 lowing new paragraph:

15 “(9) COMMUNITY PARTNER.—The term ‘com-
16 munity partner’ means a nonprofit organization that
17 has expertise in the planning and delivery of edu-
18 cation, career training, and related programs, in
19 forging coordination and cooperation between edu-
20 cators and other members of the community, in

1 training educators and other deliverers of edu-
2 cational services, or in development and implementa-
3 tion of data systems that measure the progress of
4 students, schools and institutions of higher edu-
5 cation, and programs.”; and

6 (3) by inserting after paragraph (19) (as redes-
7 igned by paragraph (1)) the following new para-
8 graph:

9 “(20) INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION.—The
10 term ‘intermediary organization’ means a nonprofit
11 organization that has expertise in training, forging
12 public-private partnerships, systems development,
13 capacity-building, improving scalability, and evalua-
14 tion.”.

15 **SEC. 102. ATTAINMENT OF 21ST CENTURY SKILLS.**

16 (a) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Section 113(b)(2)(C) of the
17 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of
18 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2323(b)(2)(C)) is amended by inserting
19 “attainment of 21st century skills (such as critical think-
20 ing, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration)
21 and” after “such as”.

22 (b) LOCAL AND STATE REPORTS.—Section 113 of
23 such Act (20 U.S.C. 2323) is further amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b)(4)(C)(ii)—

1 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “; and”
2 and inserting a semicolon;

3 (B) in subclause (II), by striking the pe-
4 riod and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by inserting after subclause (II) the
6 following new subclause:

7 “(III) describe the progress of
8 career and technical education stu-
9 dents served by the eligible recipient
10 in attaining 21st century skills (such
11 as critical thinking, problem-solving,
12 communication, and collaboration).”;
13 and

14 (2) in subsection (c)(2)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
16 and” and inserting a semicolon;

17 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
18 period and inserting “; and”; and

19 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
20 the following new subparagraph:

21 “(C) describe the progress of career and
22 technical education students of the State in at-
23 taining 21st century skills (such as critical
24 thinking, problem-solving, communication, and
25 collaboration).”.

1 **SEC. 103. INCLUSION OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND**
2 **INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS IN STATE**
3 **AND LOCAL PLANS.**

4 (a) STATE PLAN.—Section 122 of the Carl D. Per-
5 kins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
6 U.S.C. 2342) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A)(ix), by striking “in-
8 cluding parent and community organizations” and
9 inserting “including parent and intermediary organi-
10 zations and community partners”;

11 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(A)—

12 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and
13 inserting a semicolon; and

14 (B) by inserting after clause (iv) the fol-
15 lowing new clauses:

16 “(v) are carried out in partnership
17 with one or more community partners, in-
18 cluding through joint planning and imple-
19 mentation, shared professional develop-
20 ment designed to improve the effectiveness
21 of eligible recipient and community partner
22 staff, development and implementation of
23 shared data systems that support program
24 improvement and the improvement of pro-
25 gram outcomes, and the alignment and co-
26 ordination of eligible recipient and commu-

1 nity partner goals, activities, and training;
 2 and

3 “(vi) are carried out with the involve-
 4 ment of one or more intermediary organi-
 5 zations that will assist the eligible appli-
 6 cants by training staff, providing technical
 7 assistance that is designed to ensure con-
 8 tinuous improvement, helping to ensure ac-
 9 countability for results, and helping to en-
 10 sure that program funds flow quickly and
 11 effectively to effective service providers and
 12 activities;” and

13 (3) in subsection (c)(2)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking “;
 15 and” and inserting a semicolon;

16 (B) in subparagraph (G), by inserting
 17 “and” after the semicolon; and

18 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (G)
 19 the following:

20 “(H) may be provided by a community
 21 partner or an intermediary organization;”.

22 (b) LOCAL PLAN.—Section 134(b) of the Carl D.
 23 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
 24 U.S.C. 2354(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (5), by inserting “community
2 partners, intermediary organizations,” after “labor
3 organizations,”;

4 (2) in paragraph (11), by striking “; and” and
5 inserting a semicolon;

6 (3) in paragraph (12)(B), by striking the period
7 and inserting a semicolon; and

8 (4) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-
9 lowing new paragraphs:

10 “(13) describe the data-sharing agreement or
11 agreements that the eligible recipient agency has en-
12 tered into with other agencies and organizations so
13 as to provide for shared access to information on
14 student progress and success (consistent with the re-
15 quirements of subpart 4 of part C of the General
16 Education Provisions Act), integrated planning and
17 joint review of the data, and coordinated adjust-
18 ments in program strategies and activities in re-
19 sponse to changes in student needs or to new chal-
20 lenges;

21 “(14) describe how the eligible recipient will
22 carry out its program under this part in partnership
23 with one or more community partners, including
24 through joint planning and implementation, shared
25 professional development designed to improve the ef-

1 fectiveness of eligible recipient and community part-
2 ner staff, development and implementation of shared
3 data systems that support program improvement
4 and the improvement of program outcomes, and the
5 alignment and coordination of eligible recipient and
6 community partner goals, activities, and training;
7 and

8 “(15) a description of how the eligible recipient
9 will carry out its program under this part with the
10 involvement of one or more intermediary organiza-
11 tions that will assist the eligible entity by training
12 staff, providing technical assistance that is designed
13 to ensure continuous improvement, helping to ensure
14 accountability for results, and helping to ensure that
15 program funds flow quickly and effectively to effec-
16 tive service providers and activities.”.

17 (c) LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.—Section 135(b) of the
18 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of
19 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2355(b)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “development
21 programs that” and inserting “development pro-
22 grams, which may be provided by community part-
23 ners or intermediary organizations, that”;

24 (2) in paragraph (8), by striking “; and” and
25 inserting a semicolon;

1 (3) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and
2 inserting “; and”; and

3 (4) by inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-
4 lowing new paragraph:

5 “(10) development and implementation of data-
6 sharing agreements between the eligible recipient
7 and other agencies and organizations that provide
8 for shared access to information on student progress
9 and success (consistent with the requirements of
10 subpart 4 of part C of the General Education Provi-
11 sions Act), integrated planning and joint review of
12 the data, and coordinated adjustments in program
13 strategies and activities in response to changes in
14 student needs or to new challenges.”.

15 **SEC. 104. EVALUATIONS.**

16 Section 114(d)(2)(B) of the Carl D. Perkins Career
17 and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2324)
18 is amended—

19 (1) in clause (vi), by striking “; and” and in-
20 serting a semicolon;

21 (2) in clause (vii), by striking the period and in-
22 serting a semicolon; and

23 (3) by inserting after clause (vii) the following
24 new clauses:

1 “(viii) whether and how eligible recipi-
 2 ents are involving community partners and
 3 intermediary organizations in their activi-
 4 ties carried out under part C, and the im-
 5 pact of that involvement; and

6 “(ix) the implementation of the data-
 7 sharing agreements entered into under sec-
 8 tion 135(b)(10), and the impact of that
 9 implementation.”.

10 **TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO THE**
 11 **HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF**
 12 **1965**

13 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

14 Section 481 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 15 U.S.C. 1088) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 16 lowing new subsections:

17 “(g) **COMMUNITY PARTNER.**—For purposes of this
 18 title, the term ‘community partner’ means a nonprofit or-
 19 ganization that has expertise in the planning and delivery
 20 of education, career training, and related programs, in
 21 forging coordination and cooperation between educators
 22 and other members of the community, in training edu-
 23 cators and other deliverers of educational services, or in
 24 development and implementation of data systems that

1 measure the progress of students, schools and institutions
2 of higher education, and programs.

3 “(h) INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION.—For purposes
4 of this title, the term ‘intermediary organization’ means
5 a nonprofit organization that has expertise in training,
6 forging public-private partnerships, systems development,
7 capacity-building, improving scalability, evaluation, and
8 development and implementation of data systems that
9 measure the progress of students, schools and other edu-
10 cational institutions, and programs.”.

11 **SEC. 202. TRIO PROGRAMS.**

12 Section 402A of the Higher Education Act of 1965
13 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

15 (A) by striking “For the purposes de-
16 scribed” and inserting the following:

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes de-
18 scribed”; and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(B) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND INTER-
21 MEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS.—An entity described
22 in subparagraph (A) receiving a grant or enter-
23 ing into a contract under this chapter shall, to
24 the extent practicable, carry out the grant or
25 contract—

1 “(i) with one or more community
2 partners, including through joint planning
3 and implementation, shared professional
4 development designed to improve the effec-
5 tiveness of such eligible entity and commu-
6 nity partner staff, development and imple-
7 mentation of shared data systems that
8 support the improvement of the operations
9 and outcomes of the program carried out
10 with such grant or contract, and the align-
11 ment and coordination of such eligible enti-
12 ty and community partner goals, activities,
13 and training; and

14 “(ii) with the involvement of one or
15 more intermediary organizations that will
16 assist such eligible entity by training staff,
17 providing technical assistance that is de-
18 signed to ensure continuous improvement,
19 helping to ensure accountability for results,
20 and helping to ensure that the grant or
21 contract funds flow quickly and effectively
22 to effective service providers and activi-
23 ties.”;

24 (2) in subsection (c)(6), by adding at the end
25 the following: “The Secretary shall encourage enti-

1 ties receiving grants or entering into contracts under
2 this chapter to enter into data-sharing agreements
3 with other agencies and organizations so as to pro-
4 vide for shared access to information on student
5 progress and success (consistent with the require-
6 ments of subpart 4 of part C of the General Edu-
7 cation Provisions Act), integrated planning and re-
8 view of the data, and coordinated adjustments in
9 program strategies and activities in response to
10 changes in student needs or to new challenges.”; and

11 (3) in subsection (f)(3)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (i) by redesignating clauses (v) and
14 (vi) as clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively;
15 and

16 (ii) by inserting after clause (iv) the
17 following new clause:

18 “(v) student acquisition of 21st cen-
19 tury skills (such as critical thinking, prob-
20 lem-solving, communication, and collabora-
21 tion);”; and

22 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

23 (i) by redesignating clauses (v), (vi),
24 and (vii) as clauses (vi), (vii), and (viii),
25 respectively; and

1 (ii) by inserting after clause (iv) the
2 following new clause:

3 “(v) student acquisition of 21st cen-
4 tury skills (such as critical thinking, prob-
5 lem-solving, communication, and collabora-
6 tion);”.

7 **SEC. 203. GEAR UP.**

8 (a) **DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—Section
9 404A(c)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
10 U.S.C. 1070a–21(c)(2)) is amended—

11 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

12 (A) by striking “and” at the end of clause
13 (i); and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(iii) one or more community part-
16 ners; and”; and

17 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “inter-
18 mediary organizations,” after “subpart 4,”.

19 (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 404B(b) of the Higher
20 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–22(b)) is
21 amended—

22 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
23 subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjust-
24 ing the margins of such subparagraphs accordingly;

1 (2) by striking “Each eligible entity” and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity”; and

4 (3) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(2) DATA SHARING.—Each eligible entity re-
6 ceiving a grant under this chapter shall, to the ex-
7 tent feasible, enter into data-sharing agreements
8 with other organizations or agencies so as to provide
9 for shared access to information on student progress
10 and success (consistent with the requirements of
11 subpart 4 of part C of the General Education Provi-
12 sions Act), integrated planning and joint review of
13 the data, and coordinated adjustments in program
14 strategies and activities in response to changes in
15 student needs or to new challenges.”.

16 (c) APPLICATIONS.—Section 404C(a)(2) of the High-
17 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–23(a)(2)) is
18 amended—

19 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
20 graph (I);

21 (2) by striking the period and inserting “; and”
22 at the end of subparagraph (J); and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(K) describe, in the case of an eligible en-
25 tity described in section 404A(c)(2), how the

1 entities included in the partnership will engage
2 in—

3 “(i) joint planning and implementa-
4 tion;

5 “(ii) shared professional development
6 designed to improve the effectiveness of
7 school, community partner, and other
8 staff;

9 “(iii) development and implementation
10 of shared data systems that support pro-
11 gram improvement and the improvement of
12 program outcomes; and

13 “(iv) the alignment and coordination
14 of local educational agency, school, commu-
15 nity partner, and other partnership mem-
16 ber goals, activities, and training.”.

17 (d) ACTIVITIES.—Section 404D(a)(3) of the Higher
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–24(a)(3)) is
19 amended—

20 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
21 graph (A);

22 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
23 paragraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(C) at the discretion of the eligible entity,
2 acquire 21st century skills (such as critical
3 thinking, problem-solving, communication, and
4 collaboration).”.

5 **SEC. 204. MAINTENANCE AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING**
6 **PROGRAMS.**

7 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—Section 418A(a) of the
8 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070d–2(a))
9 is amended—

10 (1) by striking “The Secretary shall” and in-
11 serting the following:

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(2) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND INTER-
15 MEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS.—Each such program
16 shall be implemented—

17 “(A) in partnership with one or more com-
18 munity partners, including through joint plan-
19 ning and implementation, shared professional
20 development designed to improve the effective-
21 ness of, as applicable, school, institution of
22 higher education, nonprofit organization, and
23 community partner staff, development and im-
24 plementation of shared data systems that sup-
25 port program improvement and the improve-

1 ment of program outcomes, and the alignment
2 and coordination of, as applicable, school, insti-
3 tution of higher education, nonprofit organiza-
4 tion, and community partner goals, activities,
5 and training; and

6 “(B) with the involvement of one or more
7 intermediary organizations that assist the
8 grantee by training staff, providing technical
9 assistance that is designed to ensure continuous
10 improvement, helping to ensure accountability
11 for results, and helping to ensure that program
12 funds flow quickly and effectively to effective
13 service providers and activities.

14 “(3) DATA SHARING.—Each such program shall
15 include the implementation of one or more data-
16 sharing agreements between the grantee and other
17 organizations or agencies that provide for shared ac-
18 cess to information on student progress and success
19 (consistent with the requirements of subpart 4 of
20 part C of the General Education Provisions Act), in-
21 tegrated planning and joint review of the data, and
22 coordinated adjustments in program strategies and
23 activities in response to changes in student needs or
24 to new challenges.”.

1 (b) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Section 418A(b) of the
2 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070d–2(b))
3 is amended—

4 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
5 (8);

6 (2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-
7 graph (10); and

8 (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(9) activities designed to ensure that partici-
11 pants acquire 21st century skills (such as critical
12 thinking, problem-solving, communication, and col-
13 laboration); and”.

○