

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2968

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 2, 2014

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

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## 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 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

Sec. 101. State plans.

- Sec. 102. Local educational agency plans.  
 Sec. 103. Schoolwide programs.  
 Sec. 104. Targeted assistance schools.  
 Sec. 105. Academic assessment and local educational agency and school improvement.  
 Sec. 106. School improvement grants.  
 Sec. 107. Evaluations.  
 Sec. 108. Definitions.

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

- Sec. 201. Definitions.  
 Sec. 202. Attainment of 21st century skills.  
 Sec. 203. Inclusion of community partners and intermediary organizations in State and local plans.  
 Sec. 204. Evaluations.

TITLE III—AMENDMENTS TO THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND  
 OPPORTUNITY ACT

- Sec. 301. Definitions.  
 Sec. 302. Inclusion of community partners and intermediary organizations in local workforce development boards and activities.  
 Sec. 303. Inclusion of community partners and intermediary organizations in adult education and literacy programs.  
 Sec. 304. Effective date.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF  
 1965

- Sec. 401. Definitions.  
 Sec. 402. TRIO programs.  
 Sec. 403. GEAR UP.  
 Sec. 404. Maintenance and expansion of existing programs.

1 **TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE**  
 2 **ELEMENTARY AND SEC-**  
 3 **ONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF**  
 4 **1965**

5 **SEC. 101. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.**

6 Section 1003(g)(6) of the Elementary and Secondary  
 7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6303(g)(6)) is amend-  
 8 ed—

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

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

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

4                   “(C) a commitment to carry out school and  
5 local educational agency improvement—

6                           “(i) in partnership with one or more  
7 community partners, including through  
8 joint planning and implementation, shared  
9 professional development designed to im-  
10 prove the effectiveness of school and com-  
11 munity partner staff, development and im-  
12 plementation of shared data systems that  
13 support program improvement and the im-  
14 provement of program outcomes, and the  
15 alignment and coordination of local edu-  
16 cational agency, school, and community  
17 partner goals, activities, and training; and

18                           “(ii) with the involvement of one or  
19 more intermediary organizations that will  
20 assist the agency and its schools by train-  
21 ing staff, providing technical assistance  
22 that is designed to ensure continuous im-  
23 provement, helping to ensure accountability  
24 for results, and helping to ensure that pro-

1                   gram funds flow quickly and effectively to  
2                   effective service providers and activities.”.

3 **SEC. 102. STATE PLANS.**

4           Section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
5 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311) is amended—

6           (1) in subsection (b)(2)(C)(vii)—

7                   (A) by striking “and changes in” and in-  
8                   serting “changes in”; and

9                   (B) by inserting before the period at the  
10                   end the following: “, and measures of the at-  
11                   tainment of 21st century skills (such as critical  
12                   thinking, problem-solving, communication, and  
13                   collaboration)”;

14           (2) in subsection (b)(2)(D)(i), by inserting “,  
15           and aligned with the program the State will carry  
16           out with funds received under this part” after “if  
17           any”; and

18           (3) in subsection (h)(1)(C)—

19                   (A) by striking “and” at the end of clause  
20                   (vii);

21                   (B) by striking the period at the end of  
22                   clause (viii) and inserting “; and”; and

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

24                           “(ix) information on student attain-  
25                           ment of 21st century skills (such as critical

1 thinking, problem-solving, communication,  
2 and collaboration).”.

3 **SEC. 103. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.**

4 Section 1112(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary  
5 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6312(b)(1)) is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, such  
8 as measures of the attainment of 21st century skills  
9 (such as critical thinking, problem-solving, commu-  
10 nication, and collaboration),” after “any other indi-  
11 cators”;

12 (2) in subparagraph (P), by striking “and” at  
13 the end;

14 (3) in subparagraph (Q), by striking the period  
15 and inserting a semicolon; and

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

17 “(R) a description of the data-sharing  
18 agreement or agreements that the local edu-  
19 cational agency has entered into with other  
20 agencies and organizations so as to provide for  
21 shared access to information on student  
22 progress and success (consistent with the re-  
23 quirements of subpart 4 of part C of the Gen-  
24 eral Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232f  
25 et seq.)), integrated planning and joint review

1 of the data, and coordinated adjustments in  
2 strategies for programs carried out with funds  
3 received under this part and activities in re-  
4 sponse to changes in student needs or to new  
5 challenges;

6 “(S) a description of how the local edu-  
7 cational agency will carry out programs with  
8 funds received under this part in partnership  
9 with one or more community partners, includ-  
10 ing through joint planning and implementation,  
11 shared professional development designed to im-  
12 prove the effectiveness of school and community  
13 partner staff, development and implementation  
14 of shared data systems that support the im-  
15 provement of such programs and the improve-  
16 ment of the outcomes of such programs, and  
17 the alignment and coordination of local edu-  
18 cational agency, school, and community partner  
19 goals, activities, and training; and

20 “(T) a description of how the local edu-  
21 cational will carry out programs with funds re-  
22 ceived under this part with the involvement of  
23 one or more intermediary organizations that  
24 will assist the agency and its schools by train-  
25 ing staff, providing technical assistance that is

1           designed to ensure continuous improvement,  
 2           helping to ensure accountability for results, and  
 3           helping to ensure that such funds flow quickly  
 4           and effectively to effective service providers and  
 5           activities.”.

6   **SEC. 104. SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS.**

7           Section 1114(b)(1)(J) of the Elementary and Sec-  
 8   ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6314(b)(1)(J))  
 9   is amended by inserting “, with the assistance of one or  
 10   more intermediary organizations described in section  
 11   1112(b)(1)(T),” after “Coordination and integration”.

12   **SEC. 105. TARGETED ASSISTANCE SCHOOLS.**

13           Section 1115(c)(1)(H) of the Elementary and Sec-  
 14   ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6315(c)(1)(H))  
 15   is amended by inserting “, with the assistance of one or  
 16   more intermediary organizations described in section  
 17   1112(b)(1)(T),” after “coordinate and integrate”.

18   **SEC. 106. ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT AND LOCAL EDU-**  
 19                           **CATIONAL AGENCY AND SCHOOL IMPROVE-**  
 20                           **MENT.**

21           Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
 22   cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316) is amended—

23           (1) in subsection (a)(1)(B), by inserting “, such  
 24           as measures of the attainment of 21st century  
 25           skills,” after “section 1121(b)(1)(A) and (B)”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)(3)(A)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
3 inserting “community partners and inter-  
4 mediary organizations described in section  
5 1112(b)(1)(S) and (T),” after “the local edu-  
6 cational agency serving the school,”; and

7 (B) in clause (vii)—

8 (i) by striking “and the State edu-  
9 cational agency” and inserting “the State  
10 educational agency”; and

11 (ii) by inserting “and community  
12 partners and intermediary organizations  
13 described in section 1112(b)(1)(S) and  
14 (T),” after “under the plan”; and

15 (3) in subsection (c)(7)(A)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
17 inserting “community partners or intermediary  
18 organizations as described in section  
19 1112(b)(1)(S) and (T),” after “school staff,”;  
20 and

21 (B) in clause (vii), by striking “and the  
22 local educational agency” and inserting “, the  
23 local educational agency, and community part-  
24 ners and intermediary organizations as de-  
25 scribed in section 1112(b)(1)(S) and (T)”.



1 **SEC. 107. EVALUATIONS.**

2 Section 1501(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary  
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491(a)(2)) is amend-  
4 ed—

5 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (O) as sub-  
6 paragraph (Q); and

7 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (N) the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(O) Whether and how local educational  
10 agencies are involving community partners and  
11 intermediary organizations in their activities  
12 carried out under section 1003(g) and part A,  
13 and the impact of that involvement.

14 “(P) The implementation of the data-shar-  
15 ing agreements entered into under section  
16 1112(b)(1)(E), and the impact of that imple-  
17 mentation.”.

18 **SEC. 108. DEFINITIONS.**

19 Section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
20 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through  
22 (24), and paragraphs (25) through (43), as para-  
23 graphs (8) through (25) and paragraphs (27)  
24 through (45), respectively;

25 (2) by inserting after paragraph (6), the fol-  
26 lowing:

1           “(7) COMMUNITY PARTNER.—The term ‘com-  
2           munity partner’ means a nonprofit or public organi-  
3           zation that has expertise in the planning and deliv-  
4           ery of education and related programs, in forging co-  
5           ordination and cooperation between educators and  
6           other members of the community, or in training edu-  
7           cators and others that deliver educational services.”;  
8           and

9           (3) by inserting after paragraph (25), as redesi-  
10          gnated by paragraph (1), the following:

11          “(26) INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION.—The  
12          term ‘intermediary organization’ means a nonprofit  
13          organization that has expertise in training, forging  
14          public-private partnerships, systems development,  
15          capacity-building, improving scalability, evaluation,  
16          and the effective use of data to improve the progress  
17          of students, schools and other educational institu-  
18          tions, and education programs.”.

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

5 **SEC. 201. 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 and related programs, in forging coordination  
19 and cooperation between educators and other mem-  
20 bers of the community, in training educators and  
21 others who deliver educational services, or in devel-  
22 opment and implementation of data systems that  
23 measure the progress of students, schools and insti-  
24 tutions of higher education, and programs.”; and

1           (3) by inserting after paragraph (19), as redesi-  
2           gnated by paragraph (1), the following:

3           “(20) INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION.—The  
4           term ‘intermediary organization’ means a nonprofit  
5           organization that has expertise in training, forging  
6           public-private partnerships, systems development,  
7           capacity-building, improving scalability, and evalua-  
8           tion.”.

9   **SEC. 202. ATTAINMENT OF 21ST CENTURY SKILLS.**

10          Section 113 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-  
11          nical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (29 U.S.C.  
12          2323) is amended—

13                 (1) in subsection (b)—

14                         (A) in paragraph (2)(C), by inserting “at-  
15                         tainment of 21st century skills (such as critical  
16                         thinking, problem-solving, communication, and  
17                         collaboration) and” after “such as”; and

18                         (B) in paragraph (4)(C)(ii)—

19                                 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “;  
20                                 and” and inserting a semicolon;

21                                 (ii) in subclause (II), by striking the  
22                                 period and inserting “; and”; and

23                                 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
24                                 lowing:

1                   “(III) describe the progress of  
2                   career and technical education stu-  
3                   dents served by the eligible recipient  
4                   in attaining 21st century skills (such  
5                   as critical thinking, problem-solving,  
6                   communication, and collaboration).”;  
7                   and

8                   (2) in subsection (c)(2)—

9                   (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;  
10                  and” and inserting a semicolon;

11                  (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
12                  period and inserting “; and”; and

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

14                  “(C) describe the progress of career and  
15                  technical education students in the State in at-  
16                  taining 21st century skills (such as critical  
17                  thinking, problem-solving, communication, and  
18                  collaboration).”.

19 **SEC. 203. EVALUATIONS.**

20                  Section 114(d)(2)(B) of the Carl D. Perkins Career  
21                  and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (29  
22                  U.S.C. 2324) is amended—

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

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

3           (3) by inserting after clause (vii) the following:

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

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

13 **SEC. 204. INCLUSION OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND**  
14 **INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS IN STATE**  
15 **AND LOCAL PLANS.**

16           (a) STATE PLAN.—Section 122 of the Carl D. Per-  
17           kins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of  
18           2006 (29 U.S.C. 2342) is amended—

19                       (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A)(ix) by striking “in-  
20                       cluding parent and community organizations” and  
21                       inserting “including parent and intermediary organi-  
22                       zations and community partners”;

23                       (2) in subsection (c)(1)(A)—

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

1 (B) in clause (iv), by striking the period  
2 and inserting a semicolon; and

3 (C) by inserting after clause (iv) the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(v) are carried out in partnership  
6 with one or more community partners, in-  
7 cluding through joint planning and imple-  
8 mentation, shared professional develop-  
9 ment designed to improve the effectiveness  
10 of eligible recipient and community partner  
11 staff, development and implementation of  
12 shared data systems that support program  
13 improvement and the improvement of pro-  
14 gram outcomes, and the alignment and co-  
15 ordination of eligible recipient and commu-  
16 nity partner goals, activities, and training;  
17 and

18 “(vi) are carried out with the involve-  
19 ment of one or more intermediary organi-  
20 zations that will assist the eligible appli-  
21 cants by training staff, providing technical  
22 assistance that is designed to ensure con-  
23 tinuous improvement, helping to ensure ac-  
24 countability for results, and helping to en-  
25 sure that program funds flow quickly and

1 effectively to effective service providers and  
2 activities.”; and

3 (3) in subsection (c)(2)—

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

6 (B) in subparagraph (G), by inserting “;  
7 and” at the end; and

8 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (G)  
9 the following:

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

12 (b) LOCAL PLAN.—Section 134(b) of the Carl D.  
13 Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement  
14 Act of 2006 (29 U.S.C. 2354(b)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (5), by inserting “community  
16 partners and intermediary organizations,” after  
17 “labor organizations;”;

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

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

22 (4) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-  
23 lowing:

24 “(13) describe the data-sharing agreement or  
25 agreements that the eligible recipient agency has en-



1       tered into with other agencies and organizations so  
2       as to provide for shared access to information on  
3       student progress and success (consistent with the re-  
4       quirements of subpart 4 of part C of the General  
5       Education Provisions Act), integrated planning and  
6       joint review of the data, and coordinated adjust-  
7       ments in program strategies and activities in re-  
8       sponse to changes in student needs or to new chal-  
9       lenges;

10           “(14) describe how the eligible recipient will  
11       carry out its program under this part in partnership  
12       with one or more community partners, including  
13       through joint planning and implementation, shared  
14       professional development designed to improve the ef-  
15       fectiveness of eligible recipient and community part-  
16       ner staff, development and implementation of shared  
17       data systems that support program improvement  
18       and the improvement of program outcomes, and the  
19       alignment and coordination of eligible recipient and  
20       community partner goals, activities, and training;  
21       and

22           “(15) describe how the eligible recipient will  
23       carry out its program under this part with the in-  
24       volvement of one or more intermediary organizations  
25       that will assist the eligible entity by training staff,

1 providing technical assistance that is designed to en-  
2 sure continuous improvement, helping to ensure ac-  
3 countability for results, and helping to ensure that  
4 program funds flow quickly and effectively to effec-  
5 tive service providers and activities.”.

6 (c) LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.—Section 135(b) of the  
7 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improve-  
8 ment Act of 2006 (29 U.S.C. 2355(b)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “development  
10 program that” and inserting “development pro-  
11 grams, which may be provided by community part-  
12 ners or intermediary organizations, that”;

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

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

17 (4) by inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 “(10) develop and implement data-sharing  
20 agreements between the eligible recipient and other  
21 agencies and organizations that provide for shared  
22 access to information on student progress and suc-  
23 cess (consistent with the requirements of subpart 4  
24 of part C of the General Education Provisions Act),  
25 integrated planning and joint review of the data, and

1 coordinated adjustments in program strategies and  
 2 activities in response to changes in student needs or  
 3 to new challenges.”.

4 **TITLE III—AMENDMENTS TO**  
 5 **THE WORKFORCE INNOVA-**  
 6 **TION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT**

7 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

8 Section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-  
 9 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102) is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (11) through  
 11 (29) and paragraphs (30) through (71) as para-  
 12 graphs (12) through (30) and paragraphs (32)  
 13 through (73), respectively;

14 (2) by inserting after paragraph (10) the fol-  
 15 lowing new paragraph:

16 “(11) **COMMUNITY PARTNER.**—Except as other-  
 17 wise specified in section 203, the term ‘community  
 18 partner’ means a nonprofit or public organization  
 19 that has expertise in the planning and delivery of  
 20 workforce development and related programs, in  
 21 forging coordination and cooperation between work-  
 22 force development service providers and other mem-  
 23 bers of the community, or in training service pro-  
 24 viders.”; and

1           (3) by inserting after paragraph (30), as redesi-  
2           gnated by paragraph (1), the following:

3           “(31) INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION.—Except  
4           as otherwise specified in section 203, the term  
5           ‘intermediary organization’ means a nonprofit orga-  
6           nization that has expertise in training, forging pub-  
7           lic-private partnerships, systems development, capac-  
8           ity-building, improving scalability, evaluation, and  
9           development and implementation of data systems  
10          that measure the progress of program participants  
11          and programs.”.

12 **SEC. 302. INCLUSION OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND**  
13                   **INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS IN LOCAL**  
14                   **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS AND**  
15                   **ACTIVITIES.**

16          (a) LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.—  
17          Section 107(b)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-  
18          tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3122(b)(2)) is amended—

19               (1) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-  
20               paragraph (F);

21               (2) in subparagraph (D)(v), by striking “and”  
22               at the end; and

23               (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D), the  
24               following:

1           “(E) each local board shall include rep-  
2           representatives of community partners and inter-  
3           mediary organizations; and”.

4           (b) LOCAL PLANS.—Section 108(b) of such Act (29  
5 U.S.C. 3123(b)) is amended—

6           (1) by redesignating paragraph (22) as para-  
7           graph (23);

8           (2) in paragraph (21), by striking “and” at the  
9           end; and

10          (3) by inserting after paragraph (21), the fol-  
11          lowing new paragraph:

12           “(22) a description of the data-sharing agree-  
13          ment or agreements that the local board has entered  
14          into with other agencies and organizations so as to  
15          provide for shared access to information on partici-  
16          pant progress and success (consistent, as applicable,  
17          with the requirements of subpart 4 of part C of the  
18          General Education Provisions Act), integrated plan-  
19          ning and joint review of the data, and coordinated  
20          adjustments in program strategies and activities in  
21          response to changes in student needs or to new chal-  
22          lenges; and”.

23          (c) PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND INFORMA-  
24          TION.—Section 116 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3141) is  
25          amended—

1           (1) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by inserting before  
2           the period the following: “, including the acquisition  
3           of 21st century skills (such as critical thinking,  
4           problem-solving, communication, and collaboration)  
5           by program participants”; and

6           (2) in subsection (d)(3)—

7           (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
8           “and” at the end;

9           (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the  
10          period and inserting “; and”; and

11          (C) by inserting after subparagraph (C)  
12          the following:

13                 “(D) at the discretion of the Governor, in-  
14                 formation on program participants’ develop-  
15                 ment of 21st century skills.”.

16          (d) YOUTH ACTIVITIES.—Section 129(e) of such Act  
17          (29 U.S.C. 3164(e)) is amended—

18                 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “21st cen-  
19                 tury skills (such as critical thinking, problem-solv-  
20                 ing, communication, and collaboration),” after  
21                 “basic skills,”; and

22                 (2) in paragraph (2)—

23                 (A) in subparagraph (M), by striking  
24                 “and” at the end;

1 (B) in subparagraph (N), by striking the  
2 period and inserting “; and”; and

3 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (N)  
4 the following:

5 “(O) development of 21st century skills  
6 (such as critical thinking, problem-solving, com-  
7 munication, and collaboration).”.

8 (e) ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER ACTIVI-  
9 TIES.—Section 134(e)(3)(D) of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
10 3174(e)(3)(D)) is amended—

11 (1) in clause (x), by striking “and” at the end;

12 (2) in clause (xi), by striking the period and in-  
13 serting “; and”; and

14 (3) by inserting after clause (xi) the following  
15 new clause:

16 “(xii) development of 21st century  
17 skills (such as critical thinking, problem-  
18 solving, communication, and collabora-  
19 tion).”.

20 (f) EVALUATIONS.—Section 169(a)(2) of such Act  
21 (29 U.S.C. 3224(a)(2)) is amended—

22 (1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting “and  
23 21st century skills” after “employment com-  
24 petencies”;

1           (2) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at  
2           the end;

3           (3) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as sub-  
4           paragraph (I); and

5           (4) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the fol-  
6           lowing new subparagraphs:

7                   “(G) whether and how providers of services  
8                   under chapters 2 and 3 of subtitle A involve  
9                   community partners and intermediary organiza-  
10                  tions in their delivery of services, and the im-  
11                  pact of that involvement;

12                   “(H) the implementation of the data-shar-  
13                   ing agreements entered into pursuant to section  
14                   108(b)(22), and the impact of that implementa-  
15                  tion; and”.

16 **SEC. 303. INCLUSION OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND**  
17 **INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS IN ADULT**  
18 **EDUCATION AND LITERACY PROGRAMS.**

19           (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 203 of the Workforce In-  
20 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3272) is amend-  
21 ed—

22           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through  
23           (12) and paragraphs (13) through (17) as para-  
24           graphs (4) through (13) and paragraphs (15)  
25           through (19), respectively;



1           (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
2           lowing new paragraph:

3           “(3) COMMUNITY PARTNER.—The term ‘com-  
4           munity partner’ means a nonprofit or public organi-  
5           zation that has expertise in the planning and deliv-  
6           ery of education and related programs, in forging co-  
7           ordination and cooperation between educators and  
8           other members of the community, or in training edu-  
9           cators and others who deliver educational services.”;  
10          and

11          (3) by inserting after paragraph (13), as redes-  
12          ignated by paragraph (1), the following:

13          “(14) INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION.—The  
14          term ‘intermediary organization’ means a nonprofit  
15          organization that has expertise in training, forging  
16          public-private partnerships, systems development,  
17          capacity-building, improving scalability, evaluation,  
18          and development and implementation of data sys-  
19          tems that measure the progress of students, schools,  
20          and other educational institutions and programs.”.

21          (b) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR ELIGIBLE PRO-  
22          VIDERS.—Section 231(e)(10) of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
23          3321(e)(10)) is amended—

24                 (1) by inserting “and data-sharing arrange-  
25                 ments (designed to provide for shared access to in-

1 formation on student progress (consistent with the  
 2 requirements of subpart 4 of part C of the General  
 3 Education Provisions Act), integrated planning, and  
 4 coordinated adjustments in program strategies and  
 5 activities in response to changes in student needs or  
 6 to new challenges)” after “strong links”;

7 (2) by inserting “community partners, inter-  
 8 mediary organizations,” after “postsecondary edu-  
 9 cational institutions,”; and

10 (3) by striking “nonprofit organizations, and  
 11 intermediaries” and inserting “and nonprofit organi-  
 12 zations”.

13 (c) LOCAL PLAN.—Section 232(2) of such Act is  
 14 amended by inserting “and data-sharing agreements”  
 15 after “cooperative agreements”.

16 **SEC. 304. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17 The amendments made by this title shall take effect  
 18 as if enacted as part of the Workforce Innovation and Op-  
 19 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.).

20 **TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO**  
 21 **HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF**  
 22 **1965**

23 **SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.**

24 Section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 25 U.S.C. 1003) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through  
2           (10) and paragraphs (11) through (24) as para-  
3           graphs (4) through (11) and paragraphs (13)  
4           through (25), respectively;

5           (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
6           lowing:

7           “(3) **COMMUNITY PARTNER.**—The term ‘com-  
8           munity partner’ means a nonprofit or public organi-  
9           zation that has expertise in the planning and deliv-  
10          ery of education and related programs, in forging co-  
11          ordination and cooperation between educators and  
12          educational institutions with other members of the  
13          community, or in training educators and other  
14          deliverers of educational services.”; and

15          (3) by inserting after paragraph (11), as redesi-  
16          gnated by paragraph (1), the following:

17          “(12) **INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION.**—The  
18          term ‘intermediary organization’ means a nonprofit  
19          organization that has expertise in training, forging  
20          public-private partnerships, systems development,  
21          capacity-building, improving scalability, evaluation,  
22          and development and implementation of data sys-  
23          tems that measure the progress of students, schools  
24          and other educational institutions, and programs.”.

1 **SEC. 402. TRIO PROGRAMS.**

2 Section 402A of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
3 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

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

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

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

10 “(B) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND INTER-  
11 MEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible entity de-  
12 scribed in subparagraph (A) of a grant or contract  
13 under this chapter shall, to the extent feasible, carry  
14 out the grant or contract—

15 “(i) with one or more community partners,  
16 including through joint planning and implemen-  
17 tation, shared professional development de-  
18 signed to improve the effectiveness of such eligi-  
19 ble entity and community partner staff, devel-  
20 opment and implementation of shared data sys-  
21 tems that support the improvement of the oper-  
22 ations and outcomes of the program carried out  
23 with such grant or contract, and the alignment  
24 and coordination of such eligible entity and  
25 community partner goals, activities, and train-  
26 ing; and

1           “(ii) with the involvement of one or more  
2           intermediary organizations that will assist such  
3           eligible entity by training staff, providing tech-  
4           nical assistance that is designed to ensure con-  
5           tinuous improvement, helping to ensure ac-  
6           countability for results, and helping to ensure  
7           that the grant or contract funds flow quickly  
8           and effectively to effective service providers and  
9           activities.”;

10           (2) in subsection (c)(6), by adding at the end  
11           the following: “The Secretary shall also encourage  
12           recipients of grants and contracts under this chapter  
13           to enter into data-sharing agreements with other  
14           agencies and organizations so as to provide for  
15           shared access to information on student progress  
16           and success (consistent with the requirements of  
17           subpart 4 of part C of the General Education Provi-  
18           sions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232f et seq.)), integrated  
19           planning and review of the data, and coordinated ad-  
20           justments in program strategies and activities in re-  
21           sponse to changes in student needs or to new chal-  
22           lenges.”; and

23           (3) in subsection (f)(3)—

24           (A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) by redesignating clauses (v) and  
 2 (vi), as clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively;  
 3 and

4 (ii) by inserting after clause (iv) the  
 5 following new clause:

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

10 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

11 (i) by redesignating clauses (v), (vi),  
 12 and (vii), as clauses (vi), (vii), and (viii),  
 13 respectively; and

14 (ii) by inserting after clause (iv) the  
 15 following new clause:

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

20 **SEC. 403. GEAR UP.**

21 (a) **DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—Section  
 22 404A(c)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 23 U.S.C. 1070a–21(c)(2)) is amended—

24 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (A) by striking “and” at the end of clause  
2 (i); and

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

4 “(iii) one or more community part-  
5 ners; and”; and

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

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

11 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as  
12 subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

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

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

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

17 “(2) DATA SHARING.—Each eligible entity receiving  
18 a grant under this chapter shall, to the extent feasible,  
19 enter into data-sharing agreements with other organiza-  
20 tions or agencies so as to provide for shared access to in-  
21 formation on student progress and success (consistent  
22 with the requirements of subpart 4 of part C of the Gen-  
23 eral Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232f et seq.)),  
24 integrated planning and joint review of the data, and co-  
25 ordinated adjustments in program strategies and activities

1 in response to changes in student needs or to new chal-  
2 lenges.”.

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

6 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at  
7 the end;

8 (2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period  
9 and inserting “; and”; and

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

11 “(K) describe, in the case of an eligible en-  
12 tity described in section 404A(c)(2), how the  
13 entities included in the partnership will engage  
14 in—

15 “(i) joint planning and implementa-  
16 tion;

17 “(ii) shared professional development  
18 designed to improve the effectiveness of  
19 school, community partner, and other  
20 staff;

21 “(iii) development and implementation  
22 of shared data systems that support pro-  
23 gram improvement and the improvement of  
24 program outcomes; and



1                   “(iv) the alignment and coordination  
2                   of local educational agency, school, commu-  
3                   nity partner, and other partnership mem-  
4                   bers’ goals, activities, and training.”.

5                   (4) ACTIVITIES.—Section 404D(a)(3) of the  
6                   Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a-  
7                   24(a)(3)) is amended—

8                   (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
9                   “and” at the end;

10                  (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
11                  period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

12                  (C) by adding at the end the following:

13                         “(C) at the discretion of the eligible entity,  
14                         acquire 21st century skills (such as critical  
15                         thinking, problem-solving, communication, and  
16                         collaboration).”.

17 **SEC. 404. MAINTENANCE AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING**  
18 **PROGRAMS.**

19                  (a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—Section 418A(a) of the  
20                  Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070d-2(a))  
21                  is amended—

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

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

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

1       “(2) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND INTERMEDIARY  
2 ORGANIZATIONS.—Each such program shall be imple-  
3 mented—

4               “(A) in partnership with one or more commu-  
5 nity partners, including through joint planning and  
6 implementation, shared professional development de-  
7 signed to improve the effectiveness of, as applicable,  
8 school, institution of higher education, nonprofit or-  
9 ganization, and community partner staff, develop-  
10 ment and implementation of shared data systems  
11 that support program improvement and the improve-  
12 ment of program outcomes, and the alignment and  
13 coordination of, as applicable, school, institution of  
14 higher education, nonprofit organization, and com-  
15 munity partner goals, activities, and training; and

16               “(B) with the involvement of one or more inter-  
17 mediary organizations that assist the grantee by  
18 training staff, providing technical assistance that is  
19 designed to ensure continuous improvement, helping  
20 to ensure accountability for results, and helping to  
21 ensure that program funds flow quickly and effec-  
22 tively to effective service providers and activities.

23       “(3) DATA SHARING.—Each such program shall in-  
24 clude the implementation of one or more data-sharing  
25 agreements between the grantee and other organizations

1 or agencies that provide for shared access to information  
2 on student progress and success (consistent with the re-  
3 quirements of subpart 4 of part C of the General Edu-  
4 cation Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232f et seq.)), inte-  
5 grated planning and joint review of the data, and coordi-  
6 nated adjustments in program strategies and activities in  
7 response to changes in student needs or to new chal-  
8 lenges.”.

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

12 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the  
13 end;

14 (2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-  
15 graph (10); and

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

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

○