

## Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act

### Updates the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act by:

- Requiring states to set State-determined levels of performance to establish goals for graduation rates, job placement and continued education, and other indicators to measure program quality and success for students.
- Reduces state and local reporting burden by focusing state accountability requirements on Career and Technical Education concentrators, while ensuring that states disaggregate student group information consistent with how they do under the Every Student Succeeds Act.
- Allows the Secretary to fund state and locally designed initiatives to improve skills training through innovative methods.
- Requires states and local school districts to update education and job training programs to provide the necessary skills to students to allow them to enter high-quality jobs.

### Ensures that Career and Technical Education Programs are Aligned with Economic Needs

- Aligns the law with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to improve state alignment of education and job training programs.
- Ensures that states and local programs collaborate with the business community and workforce development boards so that education programs are meeting the needs of the local economy.
- Requires states and local school districts to align career and technical education programs with the economic needs of the state or local communities, providing a skilled workforce to employers with high wage, in-demand jobs.

### Ensures that Decisions are Made at the State and Local Levels

- Prohibits the Secretary from dictating state or local standards, assessments, curricula or program of instruction, including the Common Core Standards.
- Reduces the role of the Secretary to approving State plans that comply with the law and include State-determined levels of performance – removing the current law requirement that States negotiate with the U.S. Secretary of Education to establish state goals.