Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century

Updates to the Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act

- Requires states and local CTE providers to ensure career and technical education programs are responsive to local community economic needs to help students gain the skills needed to enter high-skill, high-wage or in-demand jobs.
- Allows States to develop state-determined levels of performance on required performance indicators, removing the requirement that States negotiate with the Secretary in current law. But requires states to meet certain requirements when setting levels of performance, including consulting with stakeholders to establish State-determined levels of performance for graduation rates, credential attainment, job placement, continued education, and other indicators that signify high-quality programs preparing students for success in the classroom and the workplace.
- Improves transparency around accountability and student performance for all CTE students by collecting data disaggregated by student groups that updates the law to align with the Every Student Succeeds Act and adds additional special populations.
- Allows the Secretary to fund state and locally designed initiatives to improve skills training through innovative methods and to update curriculum, equipment and technology, with the support of local stakeholders like industry or sector partnerships, qualified intermediaries, and those most able to support program quality at the state or local level.

New focus on alignment with State and Local Education and Training Programs to Meet Economic Demands

- This bill increases alignment with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Every Student Succeeds Act to improve state and local coordination of education and job training programs.
- Ensures that states and local programs collaborate with education providers at the secondary and postsecondary level, the business community and workforce development boards so that education programs are stackable and portable, and are meeting the needs of the local economy.
- Continues and builds focus on research, evaluation and implementation of high quality CTE programs and related initiatives to improve data, scale best practices, and improve program alignment.