SLIDE 1: Welcome to this Webinar on the requirements and considerations for WIOA Combined State Plans that include optional partner programs.

SLIDE 2: This Webinar will focus on the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, or Perkins, administered by the U. S. Department of Education.

I am Sharon Lee Miller, Director of the Division of Academic and Technical Education in the U. S. Department of Education’s Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. My office is responsible for the administration of the Perkins Act, which was amended in July 2018 by the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, or Perkins V.

Perkins V continues Congress’ commitment in providing roughly $1.3 billion annually in Federal funding for career and technical education (CTE) for our nation’s youth and adults. Perkins V represents an important opportunity to advance the Department’s vision for our nation’s CTE system, that is: Expanding opportunities for every student to explore, choose, and follow CTE programs of study and career pathways to earn credentials of value. As stated by U.S. Secretary of Education DeVos regarding passage of the law, “Congress came together to expand educational pathways and opportunities, and give local communities greater flexibility in how best to prepare students for the jobs of today and tomorrow.”

 SLIDE 3: While the Perkins V statute retains many of the same administrative and fiscal structures as the prior Perkins IV legislation, Perkins V does include some new provisions which offer States the opportunity to rethink CTE and arrive at big and bold goals for CTE under new State plans.

Key provisions in the new law include:

Requiring extensive collaboration among State- and local-level secondary, postsecondary, and business and industry partners to develop and implement high-quality CTE programs and programs of study;

Introducing a needs assessment to align CTE programs to locally identified high-wage, high-skill, or in-demand career fields;

Strengthening the CTE teacher and faculty pipeline, especially in hard-to-fill program areas;

Promoting innovative practices to reshape where, when, how, and to whom CTE is delivered;

Expanding the reach and scope of career guidance and academic counseling;

Revising and expanding the list of special populations to be served and requiring States to set aside funds to recruit and serve these students in CTE programs; and

Shifting responsibility to States to determine their performance measures, including new program quality measures, and related levels of performance to optimize outcomes for students.

SLIDE 4: Among the key provisions retained in the reauthorized Perkins V Act is the ability for States to include Perkins as an optional partner program in a Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act—or WIOA—Combined State Plan.

Under the prior Perkins IV legislation and continuing through this past year, which was the first year under Perkins V, six States submitted Perkins as part of a Combined Plan. These States are: Delaware, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia.

Our office is hoping that additional States will submit Combined Plans that include Perkins during the upcoming FY 2020 State Plan submission process to achieve the benefits shown on the slide.

Including Perkins in a Combined Plan is an useful vehicle for working across State agencies to develop and implement career pathways that align education, training, and supportive services.

Including Perkins promotes the alignment of programs to in-demand occupations and, in so doing, helps to meet employer demand for students with the skills and credentials needed to be successful in the marketplace.

Including Perkins fosters linkages with employers, including the provision of work-based learning opportunities, that help students gain real world experience and technical skill development.

Finally, including Perkins in a Combined Plan facilitates the use of common performance measures at the postsecondary level, including technical skill attainment, credential attainment, and entry into employ

SLIDE 5: I now want to turn to the program-specific State Plan requirements under Perkins V for FY 2020. These requirements are the same for all States regardless of whether they submit or do not submit a WIOA Combined State Plan that includes Perkins.

To provide a little context, last year, in FY 2019, when the Perkins statute was first enacted, each State was given the opportunity to submit a one-year transition plan covering FY 2019, or a full five-year plan, covering FY 2019-2023. Each State opted to submit a one-year transition plan. This means that each State must now submit its full State plan through FY 2023.

There are five requirements for Perkins V State Plans as indicated on the slide.

Each State must submit a cover page that identifies its eligible agency, which is defined under section 3(18) of Perkins V as “a State board designated or created consistent with State law as the sole State agency responsible for the administration, or supervision of the administration, of CTE in the State. The cover page also identifies the State agency or agencies delegated responsibilities by the eligible agency for the administration, operation, or supervision of activities of the State plan; identifies the State’s CTE director; and provides for joint signatory by the Governor.

Each State must submit narrative information, which is organized into four sections: State plan development and consultation; CTE program administration and implementation; meeting the needs of special populations; and preparing CTE teachers and faculty.

Each State must submit a budget for FY 2020.

And, each State must submit baseline and performance levels for each of the secondary and postsecondary core indicators described in section 113 of the statute for each year covered by the State plan.

The Department of Education is requiring that Perkins V State Plans be submitted by April 15, 2020.  If a State plans to submit its Perkins V State Plan as part of a WIO Combined Plan, and the State needs more time after the Spring 2020 due date for WIOA plans, the State’s CTE director should contact its Perkins Regional Coordinator (PRC) in our office to let them know. The State CTE director also should work with his or her State partners to notify representatives at the other appropriate Federal agencies.

SLIDE 6: As States are preparing the submission of a WIOA Combined Plan that includes Perkins, there are several resources that they will need as noted on the slide.

First is the Perkins V State Plan Guide that our office issued in April 2019. This document details the Perkins program-specific State Plan requirements that were just described. The guide is located under “Quick Links” on the “Home Page” of the Perkins Collaborative Resource Network—or PCRN—at cte.ed.gov.

Second is the WIOA State Plan Portal, the url for which is forthcoming. Through the WIOA portal, a States will submit the Perkins narrative portion of its WIOA Combined State Plan.

Third is the Perkins State Plan Portal, the url for which is perkins.ed.gov. There, a State will submit its cover page, budget, and State-determined performance levels.

Next is a letter that our office issued back in October 2015, encouraging States to include Perkins as part of a WIOA Combined Plan. We hope that States will review that letter and, as previously indicated, and considering submitting Perkins as part of a Combined Plan beginning in FY 2020.

Finally, our office, in collaboration with the College and Career Readiness Center at the American Institutes for Research (AIR), developed a document to help States leverage funds and resources under the Every Student Succeeds Act, Perkins, and WIOA. We hope that States will review this resource and consider ways to better integrate their Federal funding to support a college and career-ready workforce.

SLIDE 7: Thank you for viewing this webcast.  We wish you all the best in your efforts to plan for—and build—education and workforce development systems that meet the needs of all students in your State.