



Zachary Rogers
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Room 7W213
Washington, DC 20202-6450

October 24, 2025

Dear Mr. Rogers,

The [Alliance for Learning Innovation \(ALI\)](#) appreciates the opportunity to provide input on Secretary McMahon's Supplemental Priority and Definitions on Career Pathways and Workforce Readiness.

ALI brings together more than 100 education nonprofits, philanthropy, and the private sector to advocate for building a better research and development (R&D) infrastructure in education. ALI calls for increased capacity of education R&D and supports the research and development of evidence-based innovation that centers students and practitioners, improves talent pathways, and expands the workforce needed in a globally competitive world.

Given the lack of rigorous evidence and evaluation in career pathways and workforce readiness, ALI recommends adding an allowable use of funds utilized to understand what works to support career pathways and workforce readiness and disseminate that knowledge widely.

Wherever possible, grantees should utilize evidence-based practices or utilize a logic model for innovative approaches and data collection to build the evidence about what works, for whom, and under what conditions. ALI encourages the use of evidence (strong, moderate, promising or demonstrates a rationale) as defined by [20 U.S.C. 7801\(21\)\(A\)](#).

The Department should consider how this grant priority can support efforts to utilize the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) and Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) to identify and scale promising programs. The Department should also consider how this priority can connect the Department's career and workforce readiness efforts, including those under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, with other federal career and workforce readiness efforts, including those at the Departments of Defense and Commerce and the National Science Foundation.

ALI proposes additional language:

Projects or proposals designed to do one or more of the following:



“(e) Support the research, development, dissemination, and evaluation of career pathways and workforce readiness.”

Please reach out to Sara Schapiro (saras@alicoalition.org), Executive Director of ALI with any questions.