



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### NLGA Consensus Resolution on a Bipartisan National Commitment to Career Readiness

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of public education in the United States includes preparing young people not only for higher education, but also for productive employment, military service, entrepreneurship, and informed civic participation, and

**WHEREAS**, the term “college- and career-ready” has been embedded in state standards and accountability systems, and federal policy frameworks across multiple presidential administrations, and

**WHEREAS**, Congress codified this bipartisan commitment through the overwhelming passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015, which explicitly authorizes states to incorporate measures of career readiness into their accountability systems,<sup>1</sup> and reaffirmed this priority through the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act in 2018, emphasizing alignment among K–12 education, postsecondary pathways, and workforce needs,<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, governors, state legislatures, state boards of education, business leaders, and workforce partners across the country have advanced policies to promote industry-recognized credentials, work-based learning, career pathways, and employability skills as important components of student readiness,<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, preparing students to succeed in a dynamic and evolving economy can strengthen national competitiveness, support economic mobility, reduce skills gaps, and promote individual dignity through work.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association recognizes career readiness as a laudable and bipartisan national goal that can complement academic achievement and strengthen opportunity for all students.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/laws-preschool-grade-12-education/every-student-succeeds-act-essa>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cte.ed.gov/legislation/perkins-v>

<sup>3</sup> <https://nationalskillscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/WBL-Learning-Policy-50-State-Scan.pdf>; <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/k-12-work-based-learning-opportunities-a-50-state-scan-of-2023-legislative-action/#:~:text=California%2C29%20Illinois%2C30%20Missouri,45>; <https://www.nga.org/futureworkforce/pathways/engage-employers-to-build-learning-pathways/>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA encourages Members to explore state/territorial-led efforts to define, measure, improve and certify career readiness in ways that are rigorous, transparent, and aligned to labor market demand.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA encourages continued collaboration among state education agencies, higher education institutions, workforce systems, employers, and community partners to advance shared definitions and expectations for career readiness.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA affirms the leadership role of lieutenant governors in advancing bipartisan policies that align education with economic opportunity and help ensure that learner graduates are prepared for success in college, career, military service, and civic life.

ADOPTED, this day, the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, 2026.

*Co-Sponsors:* New Jersey Lt. Governor Dale Caldwell

*Proposed for the docket by:* ACT, NLGA Partner