

WIOA Youth Program
Webinar
July 20, 2015
Questions and Answers

1. **Question:**
Could the Worker's Compensation premium for work experience WIOA youth participants be covered with WIOA monies or does the employer have to pay it? If WIOA can pay for it, does it count toward the 20% work experience requirement?

Answer:

Yes, as a part of a paid work experience a local board may use WIOA youth funding to pay youth participants wages, F.I.C.A, and worker compensation premiums and those expenses would count towards the 20% funding priority on work experiences.

2. **Question:**
Is there anyone at DWD that can help with the high poverty area designation by census track?

Answer:

DWD will be sending out the census track information to each local board in the near future.

3. **Question:**
If an out-of-school youth returns to school can the WIOA program still provide services, including support services which would wrap around the school day?

Answer:

Yes, if an out-of-school youth returns to school, the WIOA program can continue to provide services to ensure success of the participant providing:

- the youth is not more than 20 years of age; and
- the youth has not graduated from high school.

A youth with a disability who has not yet graduated from high school continues until the end of the school term in which they turn 21.

Note:

1. Any services provided must comply with WIOA section 129(c)(6)(b), which prohibits interference or replacement of regular academic requirements of the youth.
 2. An out-of-school youth who returns to school they will still be considered an out-of-school youth. Though the youth is still considered an out-of-school youth, it is important that you change the section of ASSET Manage Programs/youth tab that deals with the question, "enrolled in education?" By checking this box, it will ensure that proper credit is given to the area, as it concerns performance.
4. **Question:**
Can a 20 yr. old, in college, technical or other, be considered an in-school youth?

Answer:

Yes, as long as they meet the in-school youth eligibility requirements in WIOA section 129(a)(1)(C).

5. **Question:**

If a 16 or 17 year old met the in-school youth eligibility criteria at enrollment and dropped out of school during participation do they become an out-of-school youth, or if a 16 or 17 year old met the out-of-school youth eligibility criteria at enrollment and they returned to school during participation do they become an in-school youth?

Answer:

No. The decision of whether an individual is an in-school or out-of-school youth is made at enrollment/date of first service, so if an individual meets the in-school youth eligibility requirements and is attending school at enrollment they will always be an in-school youth regardless if they stop attending school/dropout at any time during their participation.

If an individual meets the out-of-school youth eligibility requirements and is not attending school at enrollment they will always be an out-of-school youth regardless if they start attending school during their participation.

6. **Similar Expulsion Questions A & B:**

A.

If a student (age 16-17) is expelled from the district and other districts are not feasible, does the regular school day limit apply?

Answer:

Yes.

B.

If a 16 year old is expelled can they really enroll as an OSY since school attendance is not a realistic goal?

Answer:

Yes, due to the fact that they are not attending school they are considered an out of school youth.

Note:

In general, expulsion from a Wisconsin public school district removes an individual's right to receive a free public education from any Wisconsin public school district. Many districts choose to offer some type of educational services during periods of expulsion.

If the currently expelled individual is a child with a disability, the resident district continues to have free appropriate public education responsibility. Under federal and state law, local education agencies must locate, identify, evaluate, and provide a free appropriate public education to all children with disabilities, including children who have been expelled from school.

A school district cannot refuse an Individual Education Plan (IEP) team evaluation because a child has been expelled from another school district. A school district cannot refuse to provide a free appropriate public education to a child with a disability expelled from another school district. However, the school board may provide the services to the child in a setting other than one of the district's schools, as determined by the IEP team.

If you have questions about an expelled youth participant please call your local program liaison.

7. **Question:**

What does the following program element mean and please give an example?
Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation and cluster.

Answer:

This program element is defined in Title II, section 203 of the Adult Education and Literacy Act – Integrated Education and Training. The term "integrated education and training" means a service approach that provides adult education and literacy activities concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for the purpose of educational and career advancement.

Three components are required for an integrated education and training program:

- Adult Education and Literacy Activities;
- Workforce Preparation Activities; and
- Workforce Training.

For example, an individual would receive basic academic training in reading and math; workforce preparation activities in self-management, grooming for employment, and the ability to follow directions; and workforce training such as an on-the-job training at an employer to learn how to run a CNC machine.

8. **Question:**

Do free and reduced price meals in WIOA refer to an individual that receives it or is eligible to receive this benefit, and is the time period for determination based on the past 6 months?

Answer:

Yes, there are six categories under the definition of low-income (WIOA section 3(36)). Number (iv) is an individual that receives or is eligible to receive a free and reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The youth/student must be receiving or eligible for free/reduced price lunch at the time of enrollment/date of first service. The six month period does not apply to this criteria.

9. **Question:**

To verify that someone receives or is eligible to receive free or reduced price meals, is documentation from the school required or can the Income Eligibility Guidelines for Free or Reduced Lunch in the Federal Register be used?

Answer:

As verification for an individual that receives free and reduced price meals you must have documentation from the school. For an individual that is eligible for free meals, documentation that the family income is at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. For an individual that is eligible for reduced price meals, documentation that the family income is at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

10. **Question:**
What qualifies for the academic portion of the work experience?

Answer:
DOL will be providing guidance in a TEGL that is schedule to be published this August.

11. **Question:**
Where can I get information about ITA? What are they and how do I use/implement them?

Answer:
An Individual Training Account (ITA) is a payment method that is established on behalf of the participant for the purchase of training services. The services are purchased from eligible training providers, in consultation with a career planner and selected from approved providers from the State's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). Contact the Workforce Development Board in your area for additional information including the board's process and procedures pertaining to ITAs.

12. **Question:**
Since the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) testing is not required unless the youth falls under the OSY barrier, should it still be used to fulfill the comprehensive assessment requirement?

Answer:
The TABE test is one of several assessment tools that a local board may use to assess out-of-school youth. The board may also use the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS), Massachusetts Adult Proficiency Test (MAPT), or Wonderlic GAINS tests.

A local board is required to assess in-school youth for academic levels as well and they must a standardized, norm-referenced test, which are designed to compare the academic performance of an individual with national averages based on established norms of expectancy. The test results, at a minimum, must include a scale score and a grade equivalent.

Acceptable tests include, but are not limited to:

- a. Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE);
- b. Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT);
- c. Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS);
- d. Wonderlic General Assessment of Instructional Needs (GAINS);
- e. California Achievement Test (CAT); and
- f. Massachusetts Adult Proficiency Test (MAPT).

WIOA section 129(c)(1)(A) states, Local boards are required to provide an objective assessment of the academic levels, skill levels, and service needs of each participant (both in-school and out-

of-school), which assessment shall include a review of basic skills, occupational skills, prior work experience, employability, interests, aptitudes, supportive service needs and developmental needs of those participants, which includes both in-school and out-of-school youth.

13. **Question:**

I am seeking information regarding Youth Standing Committees. Will my local board still mandate standing committees? Any guidance on implementing standing committees is appreciated.

Answer: (TEGL 23-14)

WIOA eliminates the requirement for local boards to establish a Youth Council, but local boards are responsible for the oversight of youth programs. The Department of Labor (DOL) encourages local boards to establish, "a standing committee to provide information and to assist with planning, operational, and other issues relating to the provision of services to youth, which shall include community-based organizations with a demonstrated record of success in serving eligible youth", as permitted by WIOA section 107(b)(4)(A)(ii).

WIOA further permits a local board to designate an existing Youth Council as a youth standing committee if the Youth Council fulfills the requirements of a standing committee. DOL encourages local boards to designate their high-performing Youth Councils as youth standing committees, WIOA does not require it (WIOA section 107(b)(4)(C)). Local boards may create a new youth standing committee that has different membership than the Youth Council under WIA in order to design youth standing committee membership to meet the local area's needs.

A local board may also choose not to establish a youth standing committee at all. If so, the local board is still responsible for conducting oversight of the youth workforce investment activities under WIOA section 129(c) and identifying eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities in the local area by awarding grants or contracts on a competitive basis.

14. **Question:**

Now that Literacy Numeracy is no longer needed for out-of-school youth, does the TABE test scores still go under the Literacy Numeracy pre-test in ASSET Manage Assessments with no post-test needed, or should the test scores go in the Occupational section?

Answer:

The performance provisions of WIA rules and regulations section 136 remain in effect until 6/30/16. Therefore, out-of-school youth that are basic skills deficient are still subject to the Literacy and Numeracy Gains measure until 6/30/16. Test scores will continue to be entered in the same location in ASSET until further transition guidance is issued.

15. **Question:**

Are out-of-home placements - residential and group care the same as juvenile justice group homes?

Answer:

Yes, out-of-home/foster care placements – residential and group care could be the same as juvenile justice group homes. It is important that if the home/foster care is the same as group homes, to check all the categories that apply; i.e. subject to criminal justice and is a foster youth.