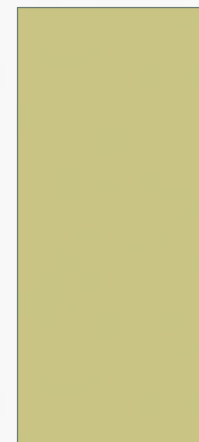




THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES:
THE FORUM FOR AMERICA'S IDEAS
DECEMBER 8, 2014



WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OVERVIEW

- President Obama signed the **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act** (WIOA) into law on July 22, 2014
- WIOA was a bipartisan, bicameral effort
- WIOA revised and reauthorized the **Workforce Investment Act of 1998** (WIA), thus amending the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- WIOA is authorized until 2020

NOTABLE CHANGES UNDER WIOA

- Aligns federal investments to support job seekers and employers.
- Establishes common performance measures and encourages common data systems across core programs.
- Strengthens alignment between adult education, postsecondary education, and employers.
- Strengthens transition services and supports for students and youth with disabilities.
- Emphasizes the achievement of competitive integrated employment by individuals with disabilities.

TITLE II HIGHLIGHTS

- WIOA expands the purpose of AEFLA to promote transitions from adult education to postsecondary education/training through career pathways, and to assist immigrants and ELLs
- AEFLA creates three new activities that are added to the definition of adult education and literacy services and become a part of required activities for local adult education programs under the Act
- WIOA allows for increased investments in corrections education
- New state and national activities requirements

TITLE IV HIGHLIGHTS

- WIOA emphasizes the achievement of **competitive integrated employment** by individuals with disabilities, including individuals with the most significant disabilities, through customized employment, supported employment and individualized services.
- WIOA expands the VR focus on **employer engagement**, requiring VR agencies to assist employers in providing work-based learning experiences and in identifying competitive integrated employment opportunities for skilled individuals with disabilities in the job-driven workforce.

TITLE IV HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

- WIOA places significant emphasis on serving students and youth with disabilities by providing them with more opportunities to practice & improve their workplace skills.
- WIOA requires State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies to reserve 15 percent of their Federal VR program funds to provide “**pre-employment transition services**” to students with disabilities.
- WIOA requires State VR agencies to reserve 50 percent of their Federal supported employment funds to provide youth with the most significant disabilities the supports to enable them to achieve an employment outcome of supported employment in competitive integrated employment, and expands the use of these funds to allow VR agencies to provide extended services for these youth up to 4 years.

TITLE IV HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

- WIOA transfers programs from ED to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in HHS
 - State Independent Living Services Program
 - Centers for Independent Living Program
 - National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
 - Programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998
- WIOA repeals several programs under the Rehabilitation Act
 - In-Service Training Program
 - Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program
 - Recreational Programs
 - Projects with Industry

WIOA RESOURCES

- U.S. Department of Education
 - OCTAE
 - **Website:** <http://www.ed.gov/aepla>
 - **Email:** AskAEFLA@ed.gov
 - OSERS
 - **Website:** <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/wioa-reauthorization.html>
 - **Email:** RSA.WIOA@ed.gov
- U.S. Department of Labor
 - **Website:** <http://www.doleta.gov/WIOA>
 - **Email:** DOL.WIOA@dol.gov