





**TO:** Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES)  
Committee

**FROM:** Ceylane Meyers-Ruff 

**SUBJECT:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)  
2020-2023 NYS WIOA Combined State Plan Two-Year  
Modification

**DATE:** March 3, 2022

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve the two-year modification to the New York State 2020-2023 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan?

### Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by Federal legislation.

### Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Board of Regents ACCES Committee for action at its March 2022 meeting.

### Procedural History

In July 2014, WIOA was signed into law. Under WIOA, New York State must submit a two-year update, or modification, by its core partners to its 2020-2023 NYS WIOA Combined State Plan. Two of the required NYS WIOA core partners are ACCES' Adult Education and Vocational Rehabilitation programs.

### Background Information

WIOA is designed to strengthen and improve the workforce system and help people, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and help employers retain skilled workers. Federally required programs administered

by the U.S. Department of Labor (Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs and Wagner-Peyser Employment Programs) and U.S. Department of Education (Adult Education and Literacy Programs and Vocational Rehabilitation Programs) are authorized and funded under WIOA.

WIOA requires core partners to develop a state plan that aligns their workforce system with education and economic development to create effective strategies to address economic and labor market challenges. The most recent four-year state plan was submitted in April 2020 and the two-year modification to this state plan is due in March 2022. The state plan is written by the required WIOA core partners and in New York these partners are the Department of Labor (DOL), Office for Children and Family Services/New York State Commission for the Blind (OCFS/NYSCB), and NYSED/ACCES (Adult Education and Vocational Rehabilitation). Additionally, while not a required WIOA core partner, NYSED’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs under Perkins V is included in the state plan and state plan modification to highlight the mutual efforts moving forward for education and employment.

<b>New York State WIOA NYS Partners</b>		
<b>State Agency</b>	<b>Required Core Partner</b>	<b>Additional WIOA Partner</b>
DOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs</li> <li>• Wagner-Peyser Program-Career Center Infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)</li> </ul>
NYSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Education and Literacy Program-ACCES</li> <li>• Vocational Rehabilitation-ACCES-VR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Perkins V)</li> </ul>
OCFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational Rehabilitation-Commission for the Blind</li> </ul>	
Office for Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</li> </ul>
NYS Office for the Aging (SOFA)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Community Employment Program (CSBG)</li> </ul>
NYS Department of State (DOS)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Service Block Grant</li> </ul>

In 2015, as part of the effort to create the initial WIOA Combined State Plan, New York State created interagency workgroups. These workgroups continued to meet and expand in both their membership and scope for the implementation of the 2016 NYS WIOA Combined State Plan and subsequent development and implementation of the 2020 NYS WIOA Combined State Plan. Accomplishments from these workgroups include:

- Adaptive technology distributed to the Career Centers throughout the State and training provided to frontline staff;

- A release of information form jointly developed and utilized by partner agencies to assist with the sharing of information about individuals utilizing workforce development services;
- Provision of joint webinars on the Summer Youth Employment Program and providing services to homeless and runaway youth; and
- Utilization of the DOL One-Stop Operating System (OSOS) as a common system for agencies (NYSED/ACCES-VR and OCFS/NYSCB) to track their engagement of businesses.

ACCES' sections of the current 2020-2023 NYS WIOA Combined State Plan identify the educational and vocational rehabilitation services and programmatic priorities to address New York's workforce development need for highly skilled workers and to assist in the reduction of barriers to employment for youth and people with disabilities. Both programs are also responsible for the WIOA common performance measures that all required WIOA core partners are evaluated on. These common performance measures are:

- Employment Rate: 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter after exiting a program
- Employment Rate: 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after exiting a program
- Median Earnings: 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter after exiting the program
- Credential Attainment
- Measurable Skills Gain
- Effectiveness in Serving Business

The draft modification in 2022 to the 2020-2023 NYS WIOA Combined State Plan includes new information with respect to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all partners in the NYS workforce development system as well as updated information on required programmatic data and program changes. Specifically, for NYSED/ACCES this includes:

- Service delivery changes needed during the COVID-19 pandemic such as:
  - Flexibility to provide virtual services to individuals and businesses
  - In-person services by appointment versus drop-in
  - Pre-recorded information such as orientations available on the website
- Decrease in applications for services
- ACCES-VR's implementation of pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities who may be potentially eligible for ACCES-VR services. These services are designed to provide an early start on career development for students with disabilities and include the following:
  - Job exploration counseling
  - Work-based learning experiences
  - Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in postsecondary educational programs
  - Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living
  - Instruction in self-advocacy
- Adult Education's rebid of the WIOA Title II programs including Adult Basic Education, Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education, Corrections and Literacy Zones. Starting July 1, 2022- June 30, 2027, a total of 200 projects will be funded in the following WIOA Program Areas:

- Program Area 1-Base/Core WIOA (73 funded projects)
  - Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Secondary Education (ASE), English Language Acquisition (ELA), Integrated Education and Training (IET)
- Program Area 2-Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (37 funded projects)
  - Funds support agencies preparing English Language Learners and places them in unsubsidized employment in in-demand industries and occupations leading to economic self-sufficiency; Career pathway instruction provides a necessary component and integrates the local workforce development system and programs (e.g., apprenticeship programs).
- Program Area- Corrections Education (23 funded projects)
- Program Area 4- Literacy Zones (67 funded projects)
  - Literacy Zones funds are used to close the achievement gap in urban and rural communities of concentrated poverty and high concentrations of families and individuals with limited literacy or English language proficiency. Literacy Zones provide a systemic approach to meeting the literacy needs of these communities from birth through adulthood.

**Related Regents Items**

February 2020:

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/220accesa1.pdf>

January 2020:

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/120accesd1.pdf>

February 2018:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/218accesd1.pdf>

October 2015:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Oct%202015/1015accesd1.pdf>

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the two-year modification to the 2020-2023 NYS WIOA Combined State Plan.

**Timetable for Implementation**

The approved modification to the 2020-2023 New York State WIOA Combined State Plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor in March 2022 and will become effective July 1, 2022.