



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

FROM: Ceylane Meyers-Ruff *Ceylane Meyers-Ruff*

SUBJECT: New York State Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) 2024-2027 Combined State Plan

DATE: February 1, 2024

AUTHORIZATION(S): *[Signature]*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve the New York State Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) 2024-2027 Combined State Plan.

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by federal legislation.

Proposed Handling

The proposed New York State 2024-2027 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan will be presented to the ACCES Committee for discussion and recommendation to the Full Board for adoption at the February 2024 Regents meeting.

Procedural History

In July 2014, WIOA was signed into law. Under WIOA, every state must submit a four-year combined state plan. New York's 2024-2027 WIOA State Plan was jointly written by several state agency core partners. Two of the required core partners are ACCES' Adult Education and Vocational Rehabilitation programs.

Background Information

WIOA is designed to (1) strengthen and improve the workforce development system, (2) assist people, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality careers, and (3) support employers in retaining skilled workers. Federally, required programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education (Adult Education and Literacy Programs and Vocational Rehabilitation

Programs) and U.S. Department of Labor (Adult Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs and Wagner-Peyser Employment Programs) are authorized and funded under WIOA.

WIOA requires core partners to develop a state plan that aligns their workforce development system with education and economic development to create effective strategies to address economic and labor market trends and challenges. The state plan is written by the required WIOA core partners, which in New York are the Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Children and Family Services/New York State Commission for the Blind (OCFS/NYSCB), and the New York State Education Department/ACCES. 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 to highlight the mutual efforts to align education and employment in NYS.

ACCES-Adult Education Programs and Policy (ACCES-AEPP): ACCES-AEPP administers state and federal funds to support approximately 317 adult literacy programs, serving more than 62,988 students. This includes school districts, BOCES, City University of New York (CUNY) and State University of New York (SUNY) postsecondary institutions, community-based organizations, unions and three library systems. WIOA funded programs and systems identified in the 2024 Combined State Plan include:

- Adult Education and Literacy Services;
- Integrated English and Civics Education;
- Corrections Education and Other Institutionalized Individuals;
- 67 Literacy Zones;
- Professional development for adult education teachers through seven (7) Regional Adult Education Network (RAEN) centers; and
- Statewide performance and data reporting system.

ACCES-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR): Vocational rehabilitation services are designed to help people with disabilities obtain, maintain and advance in employment. ACCES-VR serves over 69,000 people with disabilities annually. Through the 2024-2027 Combined State Plan ACCES-VR has identified several priorities, including:

- Increasing the employment rate and earnings for individuals with disabilities;
- Increasing services to students with disabilities and unserved/underserved groups; and
- Improving the quality of ACCES-VR services.

New York State WIOA Core Partners & Programs		
State Agency	Required Core Partners	Additional WIOA Partner
DOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs • Wagner-Peyser Program- Career Center Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
NYSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Education and Literacy Program - ACCES • General Vocational Rehabilitation Program- ACCES-VR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the 21st Century (Perkins V)
OCFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blind Vocational Rehabilitation Program - NYSCB 	
New York State WIOA Programs (Not Required Partners)		
OTDA (NYS Office for Temporary and Disability Assistance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) 	
SOFA (NYS Office for the Aging)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Community Employment Program (CSEP) 	
DOS (NYS Department of State)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Service Block Grant (CSGB) 	
CUNY (City University of New York)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOUs for teacher and workforce development initiatives with several WIOA Partners • Upskilling Training Initiative 	
DOH (NYS Department of Health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) Partner 	
ESD (NYS Empire State Development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimagine Workforce Centers and Entrepreneurial Assistance Centers, at NYS community colleges and nonprofits 	
OPWDD (NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) 	
OMH (NYS Department of Mental Health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment (ASPIRE) • New York Employment Services System (NYESS) 	
SUNY (State University of New York)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) with OTDA 	

Every four-years, states are required to submit a WIOA Combined State Plan to the U.S Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor. The WIOA Combined State plan must be approved by both the New York State Board of Regents and Governor. The 2024 WIOA Combined State Plan ([Workforce Development Plans | Department of Labor](#)) must be submitted to the federal government by March 2024.

The 2024-2027 WIOA Combined State Plan highlights how the core WIOA partners, and programs from additional State agencies and educational institutions continue to work closely to move workforce development forward in New York State. To renew the efforts initiated with the inception of WIOA, interagency workgroups were re-engaged in meetings and developed collaborative goals. The renewed effort to revitalize New York State's workforce while ensuring individuals with barriers to employment were included led to the creation of an additional workgroup on Apprenticeship and the re-establishment of the Release and Referral Workgroup. Additionally, the New York State Governor's Office of the Chief Disability Officer joined the WIOA Interagency meetings, and representation from both SUNY and CUNY have been included in the updated plan. The addition of these state agencies and educational institutions allow customers to be supported by the workforce development system by meeting their individual needs, including educational support, disability related supports and employment services. The 2024-2027 plan also provides an analysis of New York State's economy and workforce and includes updated data on the industries with the most job postings, emerging industries, and occupations.

ACCES' (Adult Education and Vocational Rehabilitation) sections of the 2024-2027 WIOA Combined State Plan identify programmatic priorities that expand opportunities for individuals with low literacy skills or disabilities to successfully participate in New York's workforce development system. Both programs, along with the other WIOA Core Partners, are federally required to report on the following performance measures:

- Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after program exit;
- Employment Rate 4th Quarter after program exit;
- Median Earnings 2nd Quarter after program exit;
- Credential Attainment;
- Measurable Skill Gains; and
- Effectiveness in Service Businesses

The 2024-2027 New York State WIOA Combined State Plan includes goals and strategies to align the workforce development system and ensure that quality services are provided to both job seekers and businesses. This plan also includes updated information on required programmatic changes and data including the following:

NYSED/ACCES' Vocational Rehabilitation Program Updates

- Increasing the state workforce of staff providing vocational rehabilitation services.

- Conducting a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) that evaluated ACCES-VR services and provided recommendations related to:
 - Strategies for increasing outreach to minorities with disabilities, youth (including those in foster care and justice involved), out of school youth and working adults with chronic health conditions.
 - Strategies for increasing business engagement by meeting with employers to understand their staffing needs and providing vendors tools to facilitate outreach in their local areas.
 - Identification of best practices in the delivery of pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS).
 - Improving collaborative training and opportunities through re-establishing the WIOA Interagency Training and Assistance workgroup and including vendors and partners in these opportunities.
- Improvements in the common performance measures.
- Expansion of Pre-ETS to students with disabilities including partnerships with community colleges and Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation.

NYSED/ACCES' Adult Education Policy and Programs Updates

- WIOA Title II funding to 200 programs providing Adult Basic Education (ABE), Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IEL/CE) and Corrections and Literacy Zones (LZ) services.
- Increased services to Out of School Youth and adults receiving adult basic education, adult secondary education and ESL.
- Collaboration with Department of Labor to provide career exploration training to Regional Adult Education Network centers.
- Collaboration with GED to provide “Math Bootcamp” training to adult education teachers.
- Partnership with the USDOE Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) to provide literacy training to over 5,500 adult education teachers.

Related Regent's Items

March 2022: [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) 2020-2023 NYS WIOA Combined State Plan Two-Year Modification](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/322accesa1.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/322accesa1.pdf>)

February 2020: [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 2020 Combined State Plan](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/220accesa1.pdf)

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

January 2020: [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) 2020 Combined State Plan](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/120accesd1.pdf)

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

February 2018: [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) Combined State Plan 2-Year Update](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/218accesd1.pdf)

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

Recommendation

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

VOTED: The Board of Regents approve the 2024-2027 New York State WIOA Combined State Plan.

Timetable for Implementation

The approved 2024-2027 New York State WIOA Combined State Plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor in March 2024 and will become effective July 1, 2024.