

Eligibility Requirements for Serving Youth under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Out of School Youth:

Out of School youth - the individual must not be attending any school, not be younger than 16 or not older than 24, and have at least one barrier.

To be eligible as an Out of School youth: The youth is not younger than age 16 or older than age 24

AND -

Not attending any school (as defined under State law)

AND -

One or more of the following barrier/s):

- A school dropout
- A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance (generally, ages 7 to and including 17 years of age) but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter. (See Attachment B of DWD Memorandum for full definition)
- An individual subject to juvenile or adult justice system
- Homeless: Multiple categories of - runaway, foster care, has aged out of foster care, eligible for assistance under Section 477 of Social Security Act (John H. Chafee foster care independence program), Violence Against Women's Act, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, or placed in an out-of-home placement
- An individual who is pregnant or parenting
- A youth who is an individual with a disability
- A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent **who is a low-income individual and is-basic skills deficient** OR an English language learner**
- **A low-income individual who requires additional assistance** to enter or complete an educational program or secure or hold employment.

Only two of the barriers require income eligibility (low income includes living in a high poverty area)

- 1. Those with a high school diploma or equivalent and are basic skills deficient or an English language learner*
- 2. An individual "who requires additional assistance" for education or employment.*

If the Out of School youth have any of the other barriers listed, they do not have to be low income.

In School Youth:

In School youth are aged 14-21 and attending school, and low-income, and have a defined barrier. (Low income includes free and reduced lunch or living in a high poverty area).

To be eligible as In School Youth – must be attending school (as defined under state law)

And

Not younger than age 14 or older than age 21

And

Low income individual*

And

One or more of the following barriers:

- Basic skills deficient**
- English language learner
- Offender

- Homeless: Multiple categories of - runaway, foster care, has aged out of foster care, eligible for assistance under Section 477 of Social Security Act (John H. Chaffee foster care independence program), Violence Against Women's Act, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, or placed in an out-of-home placement
- Youth who is an individual with a disability
- Pregnant or Parenting
- Individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment (*see limitation below*)

Note: WIOA requires a 5% limitation on using 'Requires Additional Assistance' as a barrier for In School youth.

**Exception to the low- income requirement allows that up to 5 percent of youth who meet all the other eligibility requirements need not be low-income. The 5 percent is calculated based on all youth served in the WIOA local youth program in a given Program Year.*

*** DWD has defined Basic Skills Deficient as:*

- Scores 8.9 or below on TABE in reading, writing, or computing skills or
- The Youth is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write or speak English, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual's family or in society. This is defined as:
 - Lacks a high school diploma or equivalency and is not enrolled in secondary education; or
 - Enrolled in Title II (Adult Ed) or
 - Poor English language skills or
 - Is WorkIN eligible, or
 - Case manager make observations

BSD for In-School Youth:

- Behind in credits to graduate on time with peer co-hort
- GPA 2.5 or below
- Have taken and did not pass the End of Course Assessment (ECA)

See Youth Services Logic Flow Chart for determining whether a youth is appropriate for in-school or out-of-school program

Region 4 Workforce Board defines individuals who "require additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment" as youth who fall within at least one of the following categories:

- Is at risk of dropping out of High School due to grades/credits/attendance/not passing proficiency exam or has had an Out of School suspension or expulsion from school. (ISY)
- Has a court/agency referral mandating school attendance. (ISY)
- Is attending an alternative school / education program or has been enrolled in an alternative school within the past 12 months.(ISY)
- Is or was a Ward of the State
- Has been referred to or treated by an agency for substance abuse/ psychological problems
- A victim of domestic abuse or violence
- Has a currently incarcerated parent(s)
- Has neither the work experience nor the credential required for an occupation in demand for which training is necessary and will be provided (OSY)
- Has been fired from a job within the 6 months(or longer if last job) prior to application (OSY)
- Has never held a full-time job (30+ hours per week) for more than 13 consecutive weeks (OSY)