

DATE: March 27, 2006 **WIAB 10-05**
TO: All WIA Subrecipients
FROM: Leandra Burns, Employment and Training Administrator
SUBJECT: Impact of WIA Participants' Enrollment in GED Preparation Classes in WIA

Summary of Issue

This bulletin provides clarification on youth attending GED preparation classes and whether those youth are considered "other" or "out-of-school." The bulletin also explains when youth attending GED preparation classes are regarded as "alternative schooling students" or attending an "alternative course of study." Finally, clarification is provided regarding the impact of GED participation on performance outcomes for educational attainment.

Guidance/Clarification

- An out-of-school youth is defined in two ways: (1) a youth who is a school dropout or (2) a youth who has received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent, but is deficient in basic skills, unemployed or underemployed. Youth who do not meet these criteria are considered "other youth."
- When establishing status at registration or exit, youth attending only GED preparation classes are not considered to be alternative school students or attending an alternative course of study.

Youth attending only GED preparation classes qualify as out-of-school youth since they have not received a GED, and are therefore considered "school dropouts."

- Youth enrolled in GED preparation classes are, however, considered to be "enrolled in education," which is necessary for the calculation of the Attainment of Degree or Certificate common measure. Education status is related to receipt of services and must be updated any time there is a change in school status during participation in WIA.

Related Fields in the WIA Management Information System (MIS)

The education-related fields concerning youth attending only GED preparation classes, either at registration or at exit, are identified below:

- Education Status at registration (Characteristics-1 screen). This determines "other" and "out-of-school." The choices in the drop-down menu are:
 - Student, H.S. or less (other)
 - Student, attending post H.S. Not basic skills deficient, unemployed or underemployed (other)
 - Student, attending post H.S. Basic skills deficient, unemployed or underemployed (out of school)

- Student attending alternative school. Not basic skills deficient and not unemployed or underemployed (other)
 - Student attending alternative school. Basic skills deficient and unemployed or underemployed (other)
 - H.S. dropout
 - H.S. graduate or GED. Basic skills deficient, unemployed or underemployed (out of school)
 - H.S. graduate or GED. Not basic skills deficient, unemployed or underemployed (other)
- Enrolled in Education through duration of participation (Characteristics-1 screen). Individuals are identified as eligible for attainment of degrees or certificates. This field is related to receipt of services and must be updated any time there is a change in school status during participation in WIA. The choices in the drop-down menu are:
 - Yes, Youth Enrolled in School
 - No, Youth Not Enrolled in School
- Education Status at exit or by the end of the first quarter after exit (Exit/Post Program screen). Youth are not considered to be attending secondary school at exit if attending only GED preparation classes. The choices in the drop-down menu are:
 - Attending secondary school at exit
 - Attained a secondary school diploma
 - Attained a GED or high school equivalency diploma
 - Attained a certificate in recognition of technical or occupational skills
- School Status at Exit (Exit/Post Program screen). Youth are not considered to be attending alternative school if only attending GED preparation classes. If the youth did not attain a high school diploma or GED, the youth is considered to be “not attending school or high school dropout.”
 - In-school, high school or less
 - In-school, alternative school
 - In-school, post high school
 - Not attending school or high school dropout
 - Not attending school, high school graduate or GED

Please contact your assigned grants manager if you have any questions regarding the above.