



WIAP # 10-99

SUBJECT: Youth Policies

Statutory Reference: WIA§129

WDC Review Date: 9/21/99

Effective Date: 11/1/99

BACKGROUND

States are responsible for developing strategies to ensure that comprehensive services are provided to eligible youth at the local level under WIA and for identifying the criteria to be used by local boards for awarding grants for youth activities, including criteria that the Governor and local boards will use to identify effective and ineffective youth activities and providers of such activities.

POLICY

The State has adopted the following key design features as the basic framework for youth programs in Idaho.

- **Adult support, structure, and expectations** - advisors, mentors, role models, teachers, setting clear and high expectations;
- **Creative forms of learning**, including SCANS competencies, work-based learning, project-based learning, and other environments that make learning engaging and relevant;
- **A combination of guidance and rich connections to the workplace**, including matching youth with suitable employers, job coaching, and structured learning opportunities;
- **Support and follow-up**, including referral to or arrangement for needed ancillary services and opportunities to learn trust, as well as work ethics;
- **Using youth as resources**, allowing them to contribute to their own growth; and
- **Quality Implementation**, through well-managed programs, incorporating evaluation and continuous improvement, quality staff training and materials, and effective use of resources

The following Guiding Principles are to be used by local Youth Councils to shape local youth policy and develop a comprehensive youth strategy.

- (a) Youth Councils will establish and oversee a system of youth development, education and training that promotes and enhances academic achievement, high school graduation, work-readiness skills, postsecondary readiness, occupational skill achievement and employment readiness.
- (b) Locally-identified needs of both dropouts and in-school youth, particularly those at risk of dropping out, will guide the design of local youth programs.
- (c) Individual, in-depth, comprehensive assessments will allow services to be tailored to each youth's specific needs.
- (d) Services will be tied to the age and maturity level of each youth.
- (e) Service strategies will be sequenced over time to maximize learning gains and assimilation of appropriate work behaviors.
- (f) Service strategies for dropouts will include efforts to assist youth in achieving high school credentials.
- (g) Service strategies will emphasize the use of SCANS skills through contextual learning opportunities that combine school-based learning opportunities and work-based opportunities.

Local Youth Councils are required to maintain/continue linkages with the organizations identified above if they are not represented on the Youth Council.

- (a) Idaho Department of Labor;
- (b) Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation;
- (c) Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired;
- (d) Idaho Department of Health & Welfare;
- (e) Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections
- (f) Secondary and postsecondary institutions;
- (g) Job Corps;
- (h) Programs for the homeless; and,
- (i) Community-Based Organizations serving youth with special barriers to employment, including minorities and people with disabilities

Youth proposals and programs will be judged according to the degree to which they offer youth:

- Services tailored to their individual needs
- A variety of contextual educational options to attain skill competencies
- Continuity of contact with caring, competent adults
- A focus on work opportunities as a means to teach skills
- Bona fide connections to employers
- Leadership development opportunities
- Positive peer support
- Opportunities for postsecondary education
- Positive social skill development

- Availability of supportive services during and following participation over a sustained period of time
- Opportunities for participants to be an integral part of program design
- Services provided by qualified staff
- A commitment to high levels of customer satisfaction and outcome goals appropriate to the population

Local boards may tailor these criteria and determine their relative importance in accordance with local program design.

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