



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

JB Pritzker, Governor

WIOA NOTICE NO. 18-NOT-05, Change 2

TO: Chief Elected Officials
Local Workforce Innovation Board Chairpersons
Local Workforce Innovation Board Staff
WIOA Fiscal Agents and Grant Recipients
WIOA Program Services Administrators
Illinois workNet® Operators
WIOA State Agency Partners
Other Interested Persons

SUBJECT: Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for In-School Youth

DATE: June 22, 2022

I. PURPOSE

This notice informs the workforce system that Illinois received a waiver by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) that allows in-school youth access to individual training accounts (ITAs) under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

II. ISSUANCES AFFECTED

A. References:

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Final Rule 20 CFR 681.550

B. Rescissions:

WIOA Notice No. 18-NOT-05, Change 1 Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for In-School Youth (July 1, 2020)

III. BACKGROUND

Illinois' current efforts for aligning education, workforce, and economic development is laying a solid foundation for promoting leading career pathway models and best practices. Career pathway development in Illinois continues to expand to encompass every level of the education system as well as across the needs of our diverse populations including those that face multiple barriers to achieving self-sufficiency.

Of importance to the Governor's vision, the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB) Strategic Plan, and the Unified State Plan is the expansion of career pathway systems into the secondary system for opportunity youth and those youth who are preparing to graduate and extend their educational goals into postsecondary opportunities.

Within the Unified State Plan are examples of initiatives demonstrating the importance of ensuring career and work readiness at all levels, and how Illinois is moving toward strategies that integrally tie education to workforce development. To support this goal the state requested a waiver to allow the use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) to in-school youth aged 16-24 the opportunity to utilize individual training accounts.

Providing occupational training to youth via an ITA will maximize the service delivery capacity of the WIOA Youth Program by allowing those youth that are focused on employment to have the same access as adults and dislocated workers to the advantages of ITAs. Allowing in-school youth ages 16-24 the ability to receive an ITA will maximize flexibility based on youth customers' assessed needs in terms of training that leads to employment in high-growth industries and occupations.

Through allowing both in-school and out-of-school youth (OSY) to use ITAs to access training services, in-school youth will be able to use the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) of approved programs, which include registered apprenticeships. Expanding the training program opportunities for in-school youth will allow them to better connect to training programs that match their interest, support their learning style and better prepare them for employment and work-based learning. Youth who complete occupational skills or adult education programs may be better prepared to obtain employment. Serving in-school and out-of-school youth with the same policy and procedures allows for a continuity of services for all youth without requiring Illinois workNet (One-Stop) operators to register in-school youth participants 18 years old or older in the adult program to use an ITA.

IV. COMPONENTS

The State of Illinois has received a waiver from 20 CFR 681.550 to allow in-school youth aged 16-24 the opportunity to utilize individual training accounts.

This waiver has been approved for Program Years (PYs) 2022 and 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024).

Career Planners should record the ITA services for in-school youth in IWDS.

The desired outcomes to achieve by waiving the requirement include:

1. Increase in number of youth that utilize an ITA to receive an industry recognized and/or some other postsecondary credential.
2. Increase in performance accountability measures for youth as found in Section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii) of WIOA (e.g., increases in credential attainment and measurable skills gains).
3. Increase innovative strategies to address student retention, such as dual college enrollment, occupational training, or pre-apprenticeship to apprenticeship programs.

The Department of Labor requires that states report on waiver outcomes. The Illinois Workforce Innovation Board's (IWIB) Continuous Improvement Committee (CIC) will be acquiring data and information to gauge the success of the waiver outcomes listed above. Additionally, USDOL is asking that states report any innovative strategies to address student retention, therefore the IWIB staff will send an annual survey to gather any best practices.

Approval of this waiver should not impede the local area's efforts to prioritize OSY, including outreach to the OSY population.

V. ACTION REQUIRED

All LWIAs, recipients, and subrecipients shall review this notice and distribute it to all appropriate individuals within the organization.

VI. INQUIRIES

Inquiries should be directed to OET, John Barr, (312) 805-9505 or john.w.barr@illinois.gov.

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This notice is effective on July 1, 2022.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

This notice will remain in effect until June 30, 2024 unless amended or rescinded by the Office of Employment and Training.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julio Rodriguez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julio Rodriguez, Deputy Director
Office of Employment and Training

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