



HEART OF TEXAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

ID NO.:	HWD 001-09 Change 1	DATE ISSUED:	April 16, 2009 January 21, 2010
PROGRAM:	WIA Youth	KEYWORD:	WIA, Eligibility, Barrier

Subject: Local Policy providing for a locally identified WIA Youth Eligibility Barrier

Purpose: To modify the approved additional WIA Youth Eligibility Barrier.

References: WIA Sections, 101(13)(C)(vi), 664.200(c)(6) and 664.210

Discussion: To increase the number of eligible youth ages 14 – 21 (14-24 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) a local policy as allowed under section 101(13)(C)(vi) of the Act was adopted. Eligibility for a low income youth requires not only that they be income eligible, but also that they have a barrier that “requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment”. WIA discusses the definition and documentation of six barriers required by the Act:

- Deficient in basic literacy skills.
- A school dropout.
- Homeless, a runaway, or a foster child.
- Pregnant or a parent.
- An offender.
- An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment.

The Act provides the opportunity for local Boards to further define the final barrier term by. In April, 2009, because the number of dislocated workers was increasing monthly, the Board adopted “Monetarily Eligible UI Claimant” parent as the locally identified barrier.

Unfortunately, the policy did not have the effect of increasing the number of youth eligible for WIA services. Therefore, the Board reconsidered and adopted the following change to the policy replacing “Monetarily Eligible UI Claimant” parent.

Policy: The locally defined barrier for purposes of Workforce Investment Act Youth Program eligibility is: *Failure to pass one or more sections of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) examination.*

Effective Date: April 16, 2009
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