

GRWDB Youth Requires Additional Assistance Policy

Purpose: A Youth Requires Additional Assistance Policy, required under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I programs, was approved at the Oct. 6, 2022, board meeting of the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB).

Background: Out-of-school youth who participate in WIOA Title I program youth-funded activities in the Greater Raritan Local Area must meet one or more of the barriers as described in WIOA Section 129 (a)(1)(B) and (C).

According to WIOA Section 129 (a)(1)(B)(VIII) one of the barriers for an out-of-school youth is “an individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.”

Local workforce board may assess additional barriers for youth in their Local Area based on demographics and unique local conditions. A locally defined barrier must describe a population of youth who may benefit from WIOA Title I youth activities but would otherwise be excluded based on eligibility.

Policy: Per WIOA, Local Areas may define and establish documentation requirements to provide additional assistance to youth. Additional assistance for youth served in the Greater Raritan Local Area will be defined as out-of-school youth, ages 16-24, who meet one or more of the following:

- a) Has been unemployed for the last six months
- b) Has a record of not being able to hold employment due to being fired, or quitting jobs in the last three months and lacks work readiness skills
- c) Is a court-involved youth or is at risk of court involvement
- d) Has a history of drug and/or alcohol dependency (in treatment or completed treatment)
- e) Has one or more parents currently incarcerated
- f) Is involved in a gang activity, defined as a group of three or more individuals who engage in a criminal activity and identify themselves with a common name/sign
- g) Emancipated minor, as recognized by the court system
- h) Has a language or cultural barrier and may need English/workforce skills
- i) Has a diagnosed learning disability and has/had an IEP (Individual Education Plan) while in school
- j) Has a history of mental illness – any psychiatric disorder defined by the DSM V
- k) Has/is a victim of harassment, victimization and/or bullying
- l) Has a loss of access to education due to a natural disaster
- m) Is a veteran

Documentation requirements will include case notes and related supporting materials in the participant's IEP or ISS (Individual Service Strategy), outlining the Additional Assistance category and explanation of the individual's situation.

Additional barriers to self-sufficient employment may be added as they are identified.