

Kentucky Board of Education
August 6, 2015
Report from the Secretary
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) became effective July 1, 2015. It replaces the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998. There are six broad goals of WIOA as follows:

- Increase access to education, training, and employment—particularly for people with barriers to employment,
- Create a comprehensive, high quality workforce development system by aligning workforce investment, education, and economic development,
- Improve the quality and labor market relevance of workforce investment, education, and economic development efforts,
- Promote improvement in the structure and delivery of services,
- Increase the prosperity of workers and employers,
- Reduce welfare dependency, increase economic self-sufficiency, meet employer needs, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the nation.

WIOA provides funds for four major workforce development programs:

- Title I is the primary source of federal workforce development funding to prepare low-income adults, youth, and dislocated workers for employment, and to help them continue to build skills once they are employed.
- Title II is the main source of federal adult education and literacy funding, including English language services.
- Title III funds the Wagner-Peyser Employment Services program which provides labor exchange services that match employers with qualified job seekers.
- Title IV funds Vocational Rehabilitation which supports a wide range of services designed to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and engage in gainful employment and secure personal independence through rehabilitative services.

Governor Beshear reconstituted the previous Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) to lead state-wide initiatives and continued modernization of the workforce investment system. This newly formed board is called the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board. Membership is comprised of various business sectors, state government, local workforce, and other diverse representatives.

Governor Beshear also designated 10 local workforce development areas and four regions were identified. New Local Workforce Development Boards are being established in each of the local areas throughout the state.