



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

WELCOME

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council November 20, 2025



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome, Diane Allen

22+ Program Updates

New Business & DEW Updates

DEPUTY DIRECTOR ALLEN

22+ PROGRAM DISCUSSION

ADULT PROGRAM REDESIGN

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**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

AGENDA

- Competency-based educational program overview.
- Review submitted questions.



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GOALS OF REDESIGN

- Focus on the adult learner
- Streamline the programs and processes.
- Reduce barriers.

GOALS OF REDESIGN

- Help Ohio's adult population earn a diploma, certificate or other postsecondary workforce or training credential.
- Reduce the number of working aged adults without a high school diploma in Ohio.

GOALS OF REDESIGN

- Flexibility for the provider and the learner
- Acknowledge prior learning experiences

ADULT EDUCATION REDESIGN

Main Operating Budget Bill (FY2026-FY2027)

- The Adult Diploma Redesign is planned to start on July 1, 2026.
- \$9.4 million in FY27 for Adult Options without specific earmarks.

ADULT EDUCATION REDESIGN

Main Operating Budget Bill (FY2026-FY2027)

- Aspire (WIOA, Title II Adult Education) transfers to Department of Education and Workforce on July 1, 2026.
- The new program eliminates ADP and 22+ but creates **TWO** pathways to earn a state issued High School Diploma.

ADULT EDUCATION REDESIGN

Main Operating Budget Bill (FY2026-FY2027)

- The competency-based education program includes both credit recovery and demonstration of competency.
- Designed for students 18 +, living in Ohio, who have officially withdrawn from school, and have not received an HSD or HSE.

ADULT EDUCATION REDESIGN

Main Operating Budget Bill (FY2026-FY2027)

- Up to 3-year program with new reimbursement structure (\$7,500 per year)
- Defines eligible providers.
 - Permits an eligible city, local, exempted village, or joint vocational school district, community school, community college, state community college, technical college, university branch campus, Ohio technical center ("provider"), Buckeye United School District operated by DYS and the Ohio Central School System operated by DRC to establish a competency-based educational program for eligible individuals to earn a high school diploma.

ADULT EDUCATION REDESIGN

Main Operating Budget Bill (FY2026-FY2027)

- Requires providers to establish a career plan for each student.
 - Career Plan means the plan that specifies the participant's career goals and describes how the participant will demonstrate competency or earn course credits in the program to earn a diploma and attain the participant's career goals.
- Requires providers to collect and report data on individual's career and educational outcomes.
 - An eligible provider shall contact each individual to whom a diploma is awarded to collect data on the individual's career and educational outcomes at six months, twelve months, and eighteen months after the awarding of the diploma.

ADULT EDUCATION REDESIGN

- The industry-recognized credential, or group of credentials, in a single career field must meet the criteria established for acceptable industry-recognized credentials and licenses for the purpose of obtaining a high school diploma.
- Authorizes DEW to adopt rules for the programs as necessary, including program standards, requirements for determining amounts paid to providers, and guidelines for approving hardship requests for program participants.

DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCY: OPTION 1

Assessment Requirements

- Achieve a competency score on the Algebra 1 and English Language Arts II end-of-course exams

Or

- Attain workforce readiness (current assessment: WorkKeys) score (currently 12 over the three sections with a minimum of 4 points per section)

Additional Requirements of the Program

(Individuals must complete **two** of the following):

- Industry Recognized Credential
- Earn a cumulative score of proficient or higher on three or more state technical assessments (WebXam)
- Complete a pre-apprenticeship program and get accepted into a registered apprenticeship program, or complete a registered apprenticeship
- Complete 250 hours of [work-based learning](#) with documented positive evaluations
- Obtain an OhioMeansJobs-[Readiness Seal](#)

DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCY: OPTION 2

Earn Course Credits

- Four credits in English Language Arts
- Four credits in mathematics
 - One credit may be career-based mathematics
- Three credits in science
- Three credits in social studies
- One-half credit in financial literacy
 - This credit may be applied toward the total number of credits in either mathematics or social studies

Additional Requirements of the Program

(Individuals must complete **two** of the following):

- Industry Recognized Credential
- Earn a cumulative score of proficient or higher on three or more state technical assessments (WebXam)
- Complete a pre-apprenticeship program and get accepted into a registered apprenticeship program, or complete a registered apprenticeship
- Complete 250 hours of [work-based learning](#) with documented positive evaluations
- Obtain an OhioMeansJobs-[Readiness Seal](#)

REVIEW OF SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

Q: Why 18 when online DOPR and DOPRS exist? Why did you lower your age instead of becoming DOPR program? Programmatic differences from this new program and DOPR schools?

A: The competency-based educational program is established in section 3313.902 of the Ohio Revised Code. The statute states that the program is for adults ages eighteen or older who are officially withdrawn from compulsory education.

Q: What is the funding per pupil and does that include CTE / industry credentialing? Or is there additional funding for CTE/Industry credentialing?

A: There is no defined cost per student; there is a defined price cap in statute at \$7,500 per year (up to 3 years). The department shall determine the allowable amount to be paid to providers and the requirements for reimbursement for providers.

REVIEW OF SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the accountability structure, is there a report the public can access?

A: Data management system where approved providers will report data and outcomes.

Q: What is the end outcome desired? More enrollment in the program or higher fidelity to quality and career connected learning?

A: More access and options to Ohioans without a HSD/HSE. Decrease barriers and support Ohio's economic mobility.

Q: Since the Department is providing diplomas, is the Department providing accountability for the program? How will diplomas work?

A: The Department currently issues diplomas for the Adult Diploma program. The competency-based educational program completers will all received a state issued diploma, with a plan to utilize DiplomaSender or a similar vendor.

REVIEW OF SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

Q: How are the 1200 spots figured given?

A: There is nothing in statute that defines the number of spots given to providers.

Q: How are providers assigned spots? What is the percentage of all participants that are part of the Grad alliance?

A: Provider spots are not assigned. Graduation Alliance may have contracts with community colleges.

Q: Are these in person, virtual, hybrid?

A: Approved providers should determine the delivery model(s) of their programming.

REVIEW OF SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

Q: Is this similar to a tier two diploma but renamed and slightly rebadged?

A: Clarification for this question is needed.

Q: Who really benefits from these changes, one specific org or non-diploma adults and the state of Ohio?

A: Multiple stakeholders submitted feedback about restructuring the adult education programs in Ohio. The feedback gathered included strengths and challenges about the current programs. The competency-based educational program is meant to be streamlined, reduce barriers, and prepare participants for the workforce.

Q: What are the requirements and qualifications for providers? What is the application process?

A: The application and provider requirements will be addressed in the program rules.

REVIEW OF SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

Q: What are the placement requirements? Is there follow-up to track and support retention?

A: There are no defined placement requirements, only student eligibility requirements are defined in statute. In statute, Post program placement follow-up means an eligible provider shall contact each individual to whom a diploma is awarded to collect data on the individual's career and educational outcomes at six months, twelve months, and eighteen months after the award of the diploma. In addition, approved providers must develop a Career Plan for each participant.

Q: What does a credential entail in this program? What types of credentials are being issued? What is the process in which credentials are being awarded? What type of credentials are being offered?

A: The competency-based educational program will align with the credentials that the Office of Graduate Success uses which will most likely align with the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program (IWIP) list. A 12-point credential is no longer defined in statute. Credentials are one of the allowable activities that providers may offer to participants per statute. Please refer to the IWIP list to review industry-recognized credentials in priority industry sectors.

REVIEW OF SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

Q: Expectations of programming? Guidelines, requirements.

A: Our new enabling statute (ORC 3313.902) advises us to create rule around the following four items:

- Standards for competency-based educational programs.
- Standards for applying an individual's work or life experiences toward the requirements of the section.
- Requirements for determining the amount paid to providers under the section.
- Guidelines for approving or denying a hardship request made under this section.

Q: How are providers going to plan these programs?

A: Clarification for this question is needed.

REVIEW OF SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the planning timeline for next year? When does the program start? When can providers apply?

A: Program starts on July 1st of 2026. Aim for the provider application to be available in late spring of 2026. Draft rules will be posted on the website and open for public comment in mid-January of 2026. There will also be a presentation of draft rules during a public meeting in January of 2026.

Q: Program expectations?

A: To be defined in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC).

ADULT OPTIONS TEAM AND PROGRAM INFORMATION



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

DROPOUT RECOVERY TESTING- STAR ASSESSMENT

- Technical and guidance documents will be updated to clarify there must be 16 weeks between the first and second test administration
- If there are two tests for a student who has withdrawn and returned to the school, the tests will count as long as there have been 16 weeks between each administration

RENAISSANCE OPEN OFFICE HOURS

- **December 10** – Reading the bi-weekly report and resolving SSID/DOB issues - [Register Here](#)
- **February 18** – Reading/using STAR reports - [Register Here](#)
- **April 15** – Topic to be determined - [Register Here](#)
- **May 13** – EOY wrap-up - [Register Here](#)

BIOLOGY END OF COURSE EXAM QUESTION

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has identified a scoring issue affecting one question on the 2024-2025 Biology End-of-Course Assessment.

Following a review, it was determined the test vendor scored one 1-point question incorrectly. As a result, the Department is working with the General Assembly (HB 114) to ensure students who deserved credit for that test item are awarded the proper credit. Correcting this error only impacts a limited number of students. No student's score will be decreased as a result of this update. Scores will only be increased where appropriate.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- [Quality Community Support Schools Funding](#) information now available
 - **Criteria 2 and 3 RFI Submissions Due:** *Monday, December 8th*
- [At Risk of Closure list](#) has been posted
- [High performing schools list](#) has been posted
- Community Schools Survey will be sent out early next week

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- 11/30: Ohio's I-MTSS [webinar series](#): “Understanding the Student Learning Components within Ohio’s Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports”
- 12/9: Applications close for [Governor’s Science of Reading Champions Award](#)
- 12/31 - Community School Annual Budget – Board Resolution or Minutes
- Information on Charter Schools Program Grant and State Facilities Incentive Grant to come

NEW BUSINESS

QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU

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