

Adult Workforce Diploma Program FAQ

Program Overview and Funding

What is the name of the new adult program that starts on July 1, 2026?

The name is the Adult Workforce Diploma Program.

How will funding work under the Adult Workforce Diploma Program?

The redesign introduces one funding stream for the Adult Workforce Diploma Program. The Department will determine the funding distribution formula. Providers will receive payment for delivering services to eligible participants up to \$7,500 per individual per school year, pursuant to [Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.902](#). Providers are to obligate funds by June 30 of each fiscal year for enrolled participants and liquidate by September 30.

Application

When will the Adult Workforce Diploma Program provider application be released?

The provider application will be released on April 20, 2026. It will be available on the Adult Diploma Options webpage of the Department of Education and Workforce website. The application can be found by scrolling to the [Adult Workforce Diploma Program](#) section on the Adult Diploma Option's webpage.

Local Control and Program Options

Who decides which options and additional requirements providers will offer?

The allowable options to earn a state issued diploma are outlined in [ORC 3313.902](#). Eligible providers design and implement programs with local control to determine- which allowable options are offered, consistent with pending standards in draft rules.

Program Requirements: Allowable Activities

What are the requirements for course credits, industry-recognized credentials (IRCs), and the number/ or type of activities to earn a diploma?

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section [3313.902](#), (1) The individual demonstrates competency by completing at least three of the following activities, at least one of which shall be the activity described in division (C)(1)(a) or (b) of this section.

Assessments

How does the program account prior test scores or assessments (e.g., Ohio Graduation Test (OGT), End-of Course (EOC), WorkKeys)?

Prior OGT proficiency scores do not satisfy the (EOC) competency requirement. Under [ORC 3313.902](#), participants must attain competency scores on Algebra I and English Language Arts II end-of-course exams. A participant may choose not to pursue (EOCs) and instead meet competency through the nationally recognized job skills assessment selected by the Department (WorkKeys) or by earning course credits. No explicit time thresholds for prior WorkKeys or (EOC) scores are set in statute, but scores must align to current vendor versions and valid administration practices.

Can an Individual Education Plan (IEP) exempt a participant from WorkKeys or (EOC) requirements?

No. [ORC 3313.902](#) provides no exemption from WorkKeys or (EOC) exams. Providers should offer reasonable accommodation consistent with participants (IEP).

Industry-Recognized Credentials

Where can I find the current approved industry-recognized credential list, and is it final? Who do I contact with questions or feedback?

The current [IWIP](#) Industry-Recognized Credentials list posted on the Department's website is dated for 2025–2026. For questions or feedback on the approved list, email:

industrycredentials@education.ohio.gov. The Department accepts inquiries and feedback via this email channel.

Ohio Means Jobs Seal

What is the required documentation needed to prove that a participant has already completed the Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) Readiness Seal? Will the seal be on their high school transcript or is there a way the provider can cross check on the seal?

A participant could provide a transcript or a copy of a document demonstrating proof of the OMJ seal and this would be sufficient.

For the OMJ Seal, do providers only need to complete the first section, or do providers need to complete the optional parts as well?

As defined [Ohio Revised Code 3313.6112](#) participants will earn the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal by satisfying each of the following:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in each of 14 [identified professional skills](#);
2. Use the [OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal form](#) to record demonstration of each professional skill; and
3. Work with a mentor to validate demonstration of each skill across a minimum of two of the three environments. The three potential environments are: 1. School, 2. Work, and 3. Community.

Work-Based Learning (WBL)

Is work-based learning only for unpaid work?

No. WBL can be a paid opportunity. To learn more about [Work-Based Learning](#), visit the Department's website

For WBL, does the work-based learning opportunity have to be in the same industry as the training program?

If a participant begins with no prior credits or WBL, then WBL should align with the path of study. If a participant already has the required 250 hours of WBL with positive evaluations, and documentation is sufficient to meet WBL requirements, providers do not need to resubmit WBL if local providers confirm sufficiency.