

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.

When will allocations be released to approved providers?

It is anticipated that provider allocations will be available by July of 2026 based on the funding distribution that is being created by the Department.

Will funds be provided all at once for the 3-year period, or annually at the beginning of each fiscal year?

Approved providers will receive an allocation for each fiscal year.

What is the total state funding amount for the entire Adult Workforce Diploma Program?

The total state funding in FY27 for the Adult Workforce Diploma Program is \$9.4 million without earmarks. This funding amount does not include carryover from FY2026, nor has salaries or other necessary operating costs been deducted.

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.

When will the Adult Workforce Diploma Program provider application close?

The provider application submission deadline is June 5, 2026, at 4:00pm. Late applications will not be accepted or considered. The next provider application period will open for program year FY28. Applications must be submitted to dewproviderapplication@education.ohio.gov

After the provider submits the application, can revisions be made?

Yes. Approved provider applications will be considered a living document, and providers may edit and update throughout the year as necessary.

Should providers submit one application per school location/IRN?

A separate application is required for each unique IRN. Sub-sites of fiscal agencies do not need to have a separate application; separate applications only apply when the IRN is a unique number.

Are providers listing the proposed training programs and matching industry recognized credentials in a specific question on the provider application?

On page 7 of the provider application with the title of "Career Plan and Workforce Needs", providers may list all available pathway options in question number 3 with may include proposed training programs and matching industry recognized credentials. Approved providers may expand their program offerings throughout the year. Additionally, providers who are completing the application may include a separate attachment if wishing to have additional space to explain their planned program offerings.

Can you explain what information you are collecting on page 4 of the provider application for the participating buildings question?

Please list which sites/buildings of your fiscal agent will be delivering and providing the Adult Workforce Diploma Program.

For question number 2 of the application that asks how many students the provider plans to serve, means the number of students expected to complete the program?

No. This is not about completers but the number of participants you plan to serve for each of the three years.

Systems, Data, and Reporting

What is the name of the data management system (DMS) that will be utilized for the Adult Workforce Diploma Program?

The name is LACES by LiteracyPro Systems.

If a program completer is employed at the 6-month mark, do we still need to contact these students at the 12-month and 18-month mark?

Yes. Providers must contact program completers at each of the required time periods which include the 6-months, 12-month, and 18-month mark. The purpose of contacting completers is to collect required outcome data and to advise and offer support to students.

Program and Student Eligibility

If a student under 18 is enrolled in a postsecondary program such as College Credit Plus or Ohio Technical Center Plus, can these students attend with students enrolled in the Adult Workforce Diploma Program?

Yes.

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.

Do approved providers have the authority to create a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or other formal partnerships and contracts?

Yes. Local providers may create partnerships and agreements at their own discretion.

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 for 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.

Is the TechCred list an acceptable source for credentials?

No. At this time, the TechCred list will not be utilized for the Adult Diploma Workforce Program.

Is the Adult Workforce Diploma Program following the same Industry-Recognized Credentials lists that secondary students will be following?

Yes. The Adult Workforce Diploma Program will be following the same guidelines and rules as aligned to K-12.

Will prior earned credentials be accepted?

Yes. Prior earned credentials may count toward the additional activity of completion of an Industry Recognized Credential. Providers will not receive payment for prior credentials earned.

What are the parameters for prior earned credentials?

Must contain the complete occupational license, certification, or certificate.

- Must be issued in the state of Ohio.
- The name on the occupational license, certification, or certificate must match the name of the individual enrolling into the Adult Workforce Diploma Program.
- The accreditation of the issuer, and the license, certification, or certificate was completed at a community college, technical college, state community college, an Ohio technical center, or a private or public entity that delivers training.
- The credential must be a part of a career pathway plan.
- The occupational license, certification, or certificate must be in English.
- The occupational license, certification, or certificate must be in active status and not expired.

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:

Demonstrate proficiency in each of 14 identified professional skills.

Use OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal form to record demonstration of each professional skill.

Work with a mentor to validate demonstration of each skill across a minimum of two of the three environments. The three potential environments are:

- School
- Work
- 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 Work Based Learning (WBL) requirements, providers do not need to resubmit WBL if local providers confirm sufficiency.

WebXams

Do we have more information regarding Webxams, especially for adults who do not take EMIS courses?

Please reach out to Stephanie Schab at stephanie.schab@education.ohio.gov if you are interested in learning more about administering WebXams through the Adult Workforce Diploma Program. ODEW will offer PD to interested approved providers in FY27.