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Ohio.org



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

ADULT WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM (AWDP)

**Adult Workforce Diploma Program
Virtual Kick-Off
July 7, 2026
2-3pm**



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

HOUSEKEEPING/AGENDA

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Overview of the Adult Workforce Diploma Program
- Introduction of new providers
- Walkthrough of the Professional Development Playbook
- Introduction to our data management system, LACES
- Review of required program documents
- Website and resource overview
- Mindset shifts and key changes to be aware of
- Next steps for providers



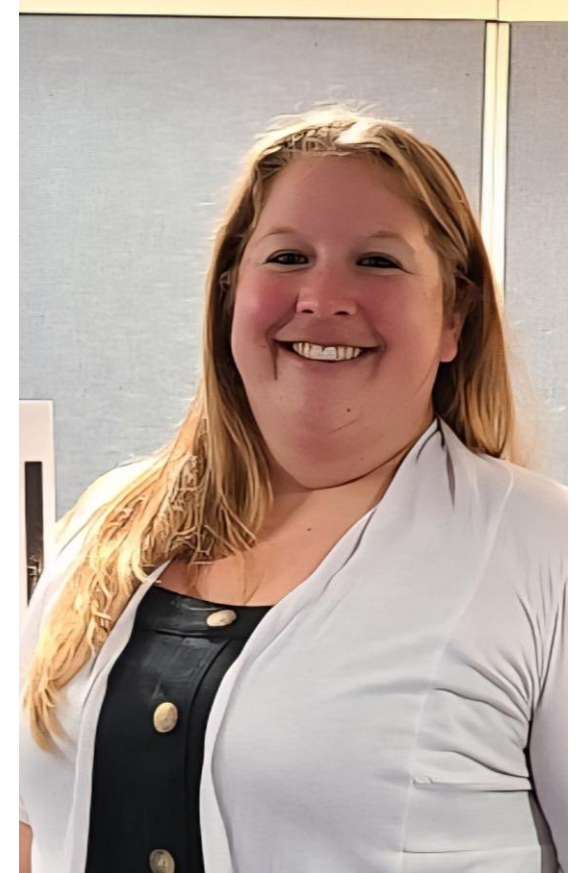
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WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

ADULT OPTIONS TEAM

Stephanie Schab Dr. Sandra Mitchell-Phipps Dean Scheiderer

Ashley Kerr



MOVING FORWARD WITH PATIENCE, GRACE, AND PARTNERSHIP

- As we launch the new Adult Workforce Diploma Program, we recognize that meaningful change takes time. Our teams, providers, and stakeholders have been working closely together through redesign efforts and transition planning.

MOVING FORWARD WITH PATIENCE, GRACE, AND PARTNERSHIP

- As we begin this new chapter, we ask everyone to embrace:
 - Patience as we learn new processes, tools, systems, and expectations.
 - Grace for one another as we adjust in real time.
 - Open communication so challenges are surfaced and solved quickly.
 - Shared commitment to what matters most—opportunity and success for adult learners across Ohio.

OVERVIEW

- \$9.4 million in FY27 for Adult Options without specific earmarks.
- [Adult Workforce Diploma Program in Ohio Revised Code.](#)

OVERVIEW

- Deep Understanding of Program Requirements and Provider Expectations
 - Understand eligibility rules.
 - Understand pathway options.
 - Understand funding structures.
 - Understand required documentation.
 - Understand compliance expectations.
- Commitment to High-Quality Career Planning and Workforce Alignment
 - Every adult learner must have a personalized career plan with providers responsible for supporting both diploma attainment and post-secondary/employment readiness.

OVERVIEW

- Effective use of LACES and Professional Development Playbook
 - Providers should be prepared to learn and use LACES for data entry and reporting, and to implement guidance from Professional Development events to ensure consistent statewide quality.
- Mindset Shifts to Support Adult Learners
 - Emphasize flexibility, trauma-informed instruction, workforce relevance, and a student-centered approach to create meaningful pathways that honor adult learners' lived experiences.
- Statewide Coordination and Support
 - Approved providers receive ongoing guidance, data updates, and implementation support from the Adult Options team to maintain program quality and alignment

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 program
- 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
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PROVIDER OVERVIEW

- Approximately 51 physical counties with approved providers
 - Aspire Providers-29
 - Community Schools- 27
 - School Districts- 13
 - Ohio Technical Centers- 36
 - Other- 1

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAYBOOK

- **Upcoming Professional Development Sessions:** 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm sessions
- **August:** Options 1 and 2/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and Invoicing and Reimbursement (payment menu)
 - LACES: Technical Assistance – virtual only
- **September:** Adult Education Week
- **October:** Ohio Revised Code (ORC)/Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) and Requirements for providers/state
- **November:** WorkKeys, Industry Recognized Credential/OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal – Career Connections Framework
- **January/April 2027:** Quarterly Professional Development sessions

LACES INTRODUCTION

- Providers will receive login account information from LACES based upon the access that was requested and sent to ODEW. Please respond ASAP, if you have not done so.
- Local providers are responsible for adding staff (not ODEW).
- Account issues, please email helpdesk@literacypro.com
- Later in FY27, LACES will go behind OHID.
- ODEW and LPS will be offering virtual training.
- This system was customized for the Adult Workforce Diploma Program and will also be where payment is requested.
- “Add New Student” and “Diploma Pathway” will be the most utilized areas of LACES .

LACES INTRODUCTION

Add New Student

Student Intake Details

Intake Date*		Intake Date is required
SSN		
Last Name*		
Suffix		
First Name*		
Middle Name		
Preferred Name*		
Birthdate*		
Age		
Official Letter of Withdrawal on File	☐	
Sex*	No Value Entered	
Student Unique ID		
OHID		
Program*	Adult Workforce Diploma Program	
Highest Ed Level Completion Entry*	No Value Entered	
Employment Status*	No Value Entered	

Does this person have barriers to employment?*

☐ Yes ☐ No

Choose one or more if 'yes'

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cultural Barriers | ☐ |
| Disability | ☐ |
| Displaced Homemaker | ☐ |
| Low Income | ☐ |
| English Language Learner | ☐ |
| Ex Offender | ☐ |
| Exhausting TANF Within Two Years | ☐ |
| Foster Care Youth | ☐ |
| Homeless | ☐ |
| Long Term Unemployed | ☐ |
| Low Literacy Levels | ☐ |
| Migrant Farmworker | ☐ |
| Seasonal Farmworker | ☐ |
| Single Parent or Guardian | ☐ |

Address 1*	
Address 2	
Zip Code*	
City*	
County	No Value Entered
State*	No Value Entered

Which of the following do you have at home so we can contact you and/or connect you to services? (Check all that apply)

Computer with Camera	☐
Computer without Camera	☐
Webcam	☐
Headset with Microphone	☐
Mobile Phone	☐
Home Phone	☐
Internet Access	☐
Printer	☐
Scanner	☐
None of the above	☐
Mobile Phone*	
Home Phone	(201) 555-0123

LACES INTRODUCTION

Email*	
Secondary Email	
Contact Preference	No Value Entered
Emergency Contact Name	
Emergency Contact Phone	(201) 555-0123
Emergency Contact Address	
Emergency Contact Relation	No Value Entered
Apparent or Disclosed Disability	☐
Specific Learning Disability	No Value Entered

Save and Return

Save and New

Diploma Pathway

Save and Go

Cancel

Penzeys, Pepper

5 Rivers Career Prep High School (DEW)

Student ID	278570	Intake Date	6/30/2026	Current Level	Level Not Defined
Overall Status	—	Exit Date	—	Entry Level	Level Not Defined
Program	Adult Workforce Diploma Program	Student Keyword	—	Subject Area	No Value Entered

Student Data

Demographics

Diploma Pathway

Education

History

No diploma pathway plan set up for this student yet.

Set up plan

Plan Setup

Pathway

- ☐ Option 1 — Assessments + Workforce
- ☐ Option 2 — Course Credits + Workforce

Career Goal

0 / 1000

Workforce Activities (pick at least 2)

- ☐ Work-Based Learning (250 hours)
- ☐ OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal
- ☐ Industry-Recognized Credential (IRC)
- ☐ Pre-Apprenticeship
- ☐ State Technical Assessments (WebXam 3+)

Save

Cancel

LACES INTRODUCTION

Penzeys, Pepper
5 Rivers Career Prep High School (DEW)

Add New Student

D

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Program	Adult Workforce Diploma Program	Student Keyword	—	Subject Area	No Value Entered

- Student Data
- Demographics
- Diploma Pathway
- Education
- History

Option 1: Assessments + Workforce · Path A (EOC Exams)
Career goal: To work as an associate manager at Penzeys.
Workforce picks: OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal · Industry-Recognized Credential (IRC)

[Edit plan](#)

Assessments

ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	RATE	CLAIMED	STATUS	
ELA2 Exam	No	\$500 flat	—	· 1 uncompleted	Track Completion
Algebra 1 Exam	No	\$500 flat	—	· 1 uncompleted	Track Completion

Workforce Requirements

Workforce bundle cap — normal \$0 of \$5,000 used · \$5,000 headroom

ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	RATE	CLAIMED	STATUS	
Work-Based Learning (250 hours)	No	\$500 flat	—		Select
OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal	No	\$500 flat	—	· 1 uncompleted	Track Completion
Industry-Recognized Credential (IRC)	No	up to \$5,000	—	· 1 uncompleted	Track Completion
Pre-Apprenticeship	No	up to \$5,000	—		Select
State Technical Assessments (WebXam 3+)	No	\$500 flat	—		Select

Payment Summary

Course Credits	\$0
Assessments	\$0
Workforce Requirements	\$0
Associated Services	\$0
Total	\$0
Approved	\$0
Pending	\$0
Denied	\$0

LACES INTRODUCTION

Penzeys, Pepper
5 Rivers Career Prep High School (DEW)

Add New Student

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Edit plan

Assessments

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ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	RATE	CLAIMED	STATUS	
Work-Based Learning (250 hours)	No	\$500 flat	—		Select
OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal	No	\$500 flat	—	+ 1 uncompleted	Track Completion
Industry-Recognized Credential (IRC)	No	up to \$5,000	—	+ 1 uncompleted	Track Completion
Pre-Apprenticeship	No	up to \$5,000	—		Select
State Technical Assessments (WebXam 3+)	No	\$500 flat	—		Select

Payment Summary

Course Credits	\$0
Assessments	\$0
Workforce Requirements	\$0
Associated Services	\$0
Total	\$0
Approved	\$0
Pending	\$0
Denied	\$0

Associated Services

ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	RATE	CLAIMED	STATUS
Workforce Preparation Components	No	\$500 flat	—	LOCKED
Follow-up Services	No	\$500 flat	—	LOCKED



PROVIDER DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

- AWDP Student Handbook
- AWDP Provider Manual
- LACES Manual
- Career-Connections Framework
- Approved Credential List
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

WEBSITE OVERVIEW

Ohio's Options Adult Diploma Program

- Staff contact information
- Aspire information
- Administrator information
- Adult Workforce Diploma Program information
- Competency-Based Diploma Pilot Program (no longer available)
- Adult 22+ High School Diploma Program (FY27 – year 2 students only)
- Adult Diploma Program (no longer available to new students)
- High School Equivalence Program (GED® and HiSET®)
- High School Continuation Program
- Additional Adult Learner Resources

MINDSET SHIFT AND CHANGES TO BE AWARE OF

The Original Way	Mindset Shift
• Weekly payments	• Monthly payments
• HSD system not a live system	• LACES is a live data management system
• Advising was encouraged	• Advising is required
• Student OHID was required	• Student OHID is not required • Students no longer accept invoices and there are no student applications
• No follow-up measures	• Required follow-up measures
• How the diploma and other documents were issued	• DiplomaSender will issue the documents (no longer the DOR or the provider)

MINDSHIFT AND CHANGES TO BE AWARE OF

The Original Way	Mindset Shift
• 22+ was not classified at a workforce program	• The Adult Workforce Diploma Program is classified as a workforce program. Additional rigor and requirements of the program
• Funding is connected to a student	• Funding is not connected to a student
• Enrollment status	• No started, accepted, or awarded status
• Documentation	• Documentation required to receive payment

OPTIONS IN OHIO

- Aspire, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Title II, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)
- HSE Options including GED® and HiSET®
- High School Continuation program

NEXT STEPS

- Be engaged
- Respond to emails
- Participate in professional development activities

GENERAL QUESTIONS AND CLOSEOUT

ADULT OPTIONS TEAM AND PROGRAM INFORMATION



QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU

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