



NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Youth Additional Assistance Barrier Policy

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NEMO WDB developed this policy to outline the definitions and eligibility documentation requirements to verify that the local criteria have been met by youth who require additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment. For reference purposes, ISY refers to In-School Youth and OSY refers to Out-of-School Youth.

The WIOA youth program is designed to provide services, employment, and training opportunities to those who can benefit from and who need such opportunities. Meeting the eligibility criteria for a WIOA-funded program does not entitle an individual to receive program elements and services. All elements must be made available to the eligible youth population, whether funded by WIOA or other resources, but the local decision on whether to provide a specific service to a youth participant must be based upon the individual's needs, appropriateness for the service, and funding availability.

Of the total ISY enrolled by a local area during a program year, no more than five percent may be individuals who require additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

Program Operators are required to complete the Request for Waiver form and submit to the Executive Director, along with supporting documentation, for approval. The WDB Office will retain these in a file for tracking to ensure compliance.

Out of School Youth

The NEMO WDB provides for employment and training programs for youth ages 16-24 not attending school and meeting at least one barrier to employment, which includes the locally defined needs additional assistance barrier. Additionally, under this specific needs additional assistance barrier, the out of school youth must also be low-income.

In School Youth

The NEMO WDB also provides programs for in-school youth ages 14-21 that are low income and meet at least one mandated barrier to employment, including the locally defined needs additional assistance barrier. No more than 5 percent of the in-school youth may be made eligible under this needs additional assistance barrier.

Criteria under this barrier have been determined and reviewed to be significant barriers in the Northeast region by the Youth Council and WDB. The criteria below were determined to allow youth

with regional significant challenges to meet eligibility and obtain the skills they need to enter the workforce and become productive, taxpaying citizens.

In order for an eligible low-income in-school or out of school youth to qualify for services using the criterion of *“Is an individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment,”* the following conditions must be met:

Verification obtained from a professional source (school official, physician, drug or alcohol rehab agency, psychologist, literacy center, AEL coordinator, HSE or ESL instructor, employer (current or past), Veteran’s administration, Vocational Rehabilitation, Missouri Department of Social Services – Children’s Division, Family Support Division, Division of Youth Services, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Jobs Program) or documentation (school records, attendance records, medical records, SSD records, social service records, worker’s compensation records, case records, applicant statement, employment records, job search log) validating that the youth does require additional assistance either related to education or employment. The individual must have at least one (1) of the following barriers:

- Youth has poor school attendance (as defined by school)
- Attending an alternative school
- Children of incarcerated parent(s)
- Migrant youth
- Youth with behavioral problems at school
- Youth from a family with illiteracy problem(s)
- Youth in a situation of domestic violence
- Youth with a substance abuse problem
- Youth with chronic health conditions
- Youth with no or lack of access to transportation
- Youth that lacks occupational goals/skills
- Youth that has a poor work history (been fired from 1 or more jobs within the last six months, OR has a history of sporadic employment, such as “has held 3 or more jobs within the last 12 months, and is no longer employed”), or
- Youth that has been actively seeking employment for at least 2 months, but remains unemployed or underemployed. This includes a youth with no employment history, a youth with limited part-time experience (those working on an as-needed or seasonal basis), and youth actively seeking full-time employment, but have only achieved part-time employment.
- Youth with other extenuating circumstances, that requires additional assistance to obtain education or employment.