

U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Employment and Training
Washington, D.C. 20210



May 29, 2020

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

Thank you for your waiver requests submission to the U.S. Department of Labor (Department) regarding certain statutory and regulatory provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the accompanying plan to improve the statewide workforce development system (copy enclosed). The waiver request was received March 2, 2020, as part of your recent WIOA State Plan submission. This letter provides the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) official response to your requests and memorializes that Iowa will meet the outcomes and implement the measures identified in its plan to ensure accountability agreed to by Iowa and ETA. This action is taken under the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of WIOA Title I, Subtitles A, B, and E, and Sections 8–10 of the Wagner–Peyser Act in WIOA Section 189(i).

Requested Waiver: Waiver of the requirement at WIOA Section 121(d)(2)(B) that the one-stop operator be “located in the local area.”

ETA Response: The State's request to waive the requirement that the one-stop operator must be “located in the local area” is approved on the condition that the selected one-stop operator can fulfill the roles and responsibilities enumerated at 20 CFR 678.620, as well as any additional responsibilities as determined by the one-stop operator's contract. The State must also comply with the requirements of Section 121(d) and 20 CFR 678.600-635 when selecting the one-stop operator.

Requested Waiver: Waiver of the obligation of eligible training providers (ETPs) to report performance data on all students in a training program at WIOA Sections 116(d)(4)(A) and 122 and 20 CFR 677.230(a)(4) and (5) and 20 CFR 680.

ETA Response: The State's request to waive the obligation of ETPs to report performance data on all students in a training program is approved through June 30, 2021. ETA reviewed the State's waiver request and plan and has determined that the requirements requested to be waived impede the ability of Iowa to implement its plan to improve the workforce development system. The State must provide information regarding how the Governor will take into account the outcomes of all students in an ETP program of study, with respect to their employment and earnings, as required for the demonstration of continued eligibility in 20 CFR 680.460(f)(1)(iii)

and WIOA Section 122. The State will continue to collect and report data for all WIOA-funded participants in accordance with all statutory and regulatory requirements, including WIOA Sections 116 and 122, and as specified at 20 CFR 677.230 and 680.460. While ETA recognizes the importance of informing consumer choice through the provision of quality data on training outcomes, we also recognize that the systems to collect the required performance data from providers take time to develop and implement in a way that maximizes training provider participation, which is a critical component of the workforce development system. Starting July 1, 2021, the State's obligation to report performance data on all students in a training program will be reinstated.

The State must report its waiver outcomes and implementation of each approved waiver in the WIOA Annual Report. ETA will use this information to assess continued waiver approval and to identify promising practices that may be adopted more widely. ETA is available to provide technical assistance to you in support of your goals. The Department proposed additional flexibility in its budgets for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021 to give governors more decision-making authority to meet the workforce needs of their states. If you have questions, feel free to contact my office at (202) 693-2772.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Pallasch".

John Pallasch

Enclosure

cc: Beth Townsend, Director, Iowa Workforce Development
Christine Quinn, Regional Administrator, ETA
Tommy Ouyang, Federal Project Officer, ETA