



June 23, 2020

The Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor of Virginia
State Capitol
Third Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Northam:

Thank you for your waiver request 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. The waiver request was received April 1, 2020, as part of your recent WIOA State Plan submission. This letter provides the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) official response to your request and memorializes that Virginia will meet the outcomes and implement the measures identified in its plan to ensure accountability agreed to by Virginia 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–Peysner Act in WIOA Section 189(i).

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: ETA conditionally approves the Commonwealth's waiver request through June 30, 2021. ETA reviewed the Commonwealth's waiver request and plan and has determined that the requirements requested to be waived impede the ability of Virginia to implement its plan to improve the workforce development system. Prior to implementation, the Commonwealth must update its waiver request to include projected quantifiable outcomes resulting from this waiver as well as information regarding results attained during its previous implementation of this waiver. The Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth's obligation to report performance data on all students in a training program will be reinstated.

The Commonwealth must report its waiver outcomes and implementation of the 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

cc: Megan Healy, Chief Workforce Development Advisor, Commonwealth of Virginia
Leo Miller, Boston/Philadelphia Regional Administrator, ETA
Ronetia Bacon, Federal Project Officer, ETA