INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

FORMAL COMMUNICATION

TO: Regional Operators
Indianapolis Private Industry Council
Regional Coordinators

FROM: William R. Miller, Director
Career Services

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Technical Assistance Bulletin
TAB 2006-007 – Change 1

Clarification
Guidance from the U. S. Department of Labor

Several questions have arisen concerning the guidance on certifications provided in the Technical Assistance Bulletin 2007-007. Therefore, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is providing clarification on certifications and reissuing the Technical Assistance Bulletin. The changes are indicated in bold and underlined.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development received program guidance from the U. S. Department of Labor in the following two areas:

- When does follow-up for a youth co-enrolled in the adult program begin?
- Do WorkKeys, First Aid, Safety, OSHA certifications or other similar programs in combination with some form of technical or occupational skills training count for the Youth Common Measure: Attainment of a Degree or Certificate.

The guidance is discussed below:

Follow-up for Youth
Follow-up for a youth co-enrolled in the adult program begins the first day after being placed in unsubsidized employment and last for 12 months, as appropriate. This way only one exit is entered for the youth, which corresponds with Common Measures guidance.

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Certifications

Effective with youth enrolled July 1, 2006 and after, certifications such as WorkKeys, First Aid, Safety, OSHA, or any other similar type of certification awarded in combination with some form of technical or occupational skills training do not count for this Youth Common Measure: Attainment of a Degree or Certificate. The examples are not **measurable technical or occupational skills necessary to gain employment or advance within an occupation.** With very few exceptions, the certifications are not legally necessary for an individual to gain employment in that occupation or profession or provide a valid and reliable assessment of an individual's knowledge, skills, and abilities. Exceptions must receive prior approval from the Center of Excellence. As such occupational skills training programs such as "Introductory Manufacturing," "**Introductory** Welding," or other training that includes a safety or OSHA certification can not be counted for this Common Measure.

This interpretation corresponds with the Department of Workforce Development's goal to increase Indiana's two year education attainment levels to be within the top 20 states by 2012. It also corresponds with the goal to increase training-tier expenditures.

The Department of Workforce Development realizes that this interpretation may result in significant changes in program design for youth. We realize lower numbers of youth will have a successful completion for this Common Measure. The Department of Labor indicated that this tougher stance will be taken into consideration when negotiating Program Year 2007 and 2008 performance standards (or Common Measures once the Workforce Investment Act is reauthorized).

For **older** youth enrolled prior to July 1, 2006, the credential definition is in effect. Therefore, the Blue and Gold WorkKeys certifications count as a positive credential (when all other components of the credential are met.) Also, the certifications such as First Aid, Safety, OHSA or any other similar type of certification awarded in combination with some form of technical or occupational skills training will count for the credential performance standard. **(The guidance in this paragraph also applies to adults and dislocated workers.)**

WIA-TAB No.	Subject Matter
2006-07 Change 1	Clarification on Guidance from the U. S. Department of Labor
2006-07	Guidance from the U. S. Department of Labor
2006-06	Out-of-School Youth Definition
2006-05	WorkKeys Certificates under the Youth Common Measures
2006-04	Repeating classes or tests funded by the Workforce Investment Act
2006-03	Discontinuation of the Certificates of Technical Assistance Program
2006-02	Trade Adjustment Assistance – Qualifying Separation Date for Workers' Compensation
2006-01 Change 1	Clarification on DWD Communication 2005-26
2006-01	Clarification on DWD Communication 2005-26