

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Workforce Investment Act**

WAIVER TO SUPPORT YOUTH SERVICES UNDER THE RECOVERY ACT

Waiver Relating to Performance Measures for Youth Who Participate in Work Experience Only

The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), as the administrative entity of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, submits this request for a waiver from USDOL relating to performance accountability requirements for youth services in WIA Section 136.

Pursuant to WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B); WIA regulations at 20 CFR 661.420; and Recovery Act guidance in TEGL 14-08 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requests a waiver as described below:

1. A waiver of the statutory youth performance measures for youth ages 18-24 served with Recovery Act funds who participate in work experience only beyond the summer months of May 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009.
2. This waiver would use the Work Readiness Indicator as the only indicator of performance for youth ages 18-24 served with Recovery Act funds who participate in work experience only during the time period of October 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010.
3. The waiver would include program design flexibility as articulated in section 16.A of TEGL 14-08 including: flexibility to determine which program elements are provided with Recovery Act funds; appropriateness of 12 month follow up; type of assessment and individual service strategy; and appropriateness of academic learning connected to summer employment.
4. The effective period for this waiver would be October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.

A. Statutory or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived

This request is for a waiver from WIA Section 136 (b)(2)(A) which defines the WIA statutory performance measures for youth participants.

B. Goals of the Waiver and Expected Programmatic Outcomes if Waiver is Granted

The Recovery Act provides an opportunity to provide these young adults meaningful work experiences that will provide economic stimulus to the nation as well as give them many relevant skills to enter employment.

The waiver will assist with the transition beyond the summer months enabling the provision of additional educational and training services based on the comprehensive needs of the individual youth as written in the Individual Service Strategy.

During the time of the waiver, the youth service providers will be working to provide a continuity of services designed to connect youth with further education and training opportunities via the WIA Youth or Adult programs.

C. State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers

There is no known state or local statutory or regulatory barrier to implementing the proposed waiver.

D. Description of Individuals Impacted by the Waiver

Individuals impacted by the waiver are summer youth participants, only, ages 18 – 24, funded by the Recovery Act and are defined by WIA section 101 (33) as out of school youth.

E. Opportunity for Public Comment and the Process for the Implementation of the Waiver

This request was developed as a result of concerns expressed by local workforce investment areas.

Notice of this proposed waiver was posted on the EOLWD website and ideas concerning the waivers were discussed in broadly-attended public meetings.

The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EODWD) and its agencies, as the State administrator and overseer of WIA, will monitor the implementation of this waiver and work with the 16 local workforce investment boards. Division of Career Services staff will monitor the implementation of this waiver during their on site reviews.