

ATTACHMENT B

Proposed Regional Designations under WIOA

Regional Planning Requirements

Role of the Regions for Regional Planning

This attachment is included in order to provide background information on the role of the regions in the development of the regional plan.

Purpose: to introduce the role of the regions with regard to the requirements for regional planning.

Background: the local plan will serve as a 4-year action plan to develop, align, and integrate service delivery strategies and to support the State's vision and strategic and operational goals. For the planning regions, a regional plan is required to meet these purposes and to coordinate resources among multiple boards in a region.

WIOA requirements: WIOA §679.510 describes the requirements for regional planning:

Local Boards and chief elected officials within an identified planning region must:

- (1) Participate in a regional planning process that results in:
 - (i) The preparation of a regional plan
 - (ii) The establishment of regional service strategies, including use of cooperative service delivery agreements;
 - (iii) The development and implementation of sector initiatives for in-demand industry sectors or occupations for the planning region;
 - (iv) The collection and analysis of regional labor market data (in conjunction with the State)
 - (v) The coordination of administrative cost arrangements, including the pooling of funds for administrative costs, as appropriate;
 - (vi) The coordination of transportation and other supportive services as appropriate;
 - (vii) The coordination of services with regional economic development services and providers; and
 - (viii) The establishment of an agreement concerning how the planning region will collectively negotiate and reach agreement with the Governor on local levels of performance for, and report on, the performance accountability measures described in WIOA sec. 116(c) for local areas or the planning region.
- (2) Prepare, submit, and obtain approval of a single regional plan that:
 - (i) Includes a description of the activities described in paragraph (a)(1); and
 - (ii) Incorporates local plans for each of the local areas in the planning region, consistent with § 679.540(a).

Consistent with § 679.550(b), the Local Boards representing each local area in the planning region must provide an opportunity (no more than 30 day period) for public comment on the development of the regional plan or subsequent plan modifications before submitting the plan to the Governor. Local Boards must submit any comments that express disagreement with the plan to the Governor along with the plan. Local Boards must make information about the plan available to the public on a regular basis through electronic means and open meetings.

The State will provide technical assistance and labor market data, as requested by local areas, to assist with regional planning and subsequent service delivery efforts.

Please note: the MassWorkforce Policy guidance with specific instruction and requirements for the local annual plan and regional plans will be issued under separate cover.