



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION

**WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT**

**CORRECTIONS EDUCATION**

WIOA Title II includes a requirement that states provide corrections education and education for other institutionalized individuals (Section 225). Corrections education is for criminal offenders (any individual who is charged with or convicted of any criminal offense) who reside in correctional institutions. Other institutionalized individuals are not defined in WIOA, but examples might include persons who reside in facilities operated by a state mental health agency or individuals in civil confinement institutions.

**Allowable Uses of Funds.**

WIOA expands the allowable programs components for corrections education from those included in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The new list now includes eight categories of academic programs: (1) adult education and literacy activities; (2) special education, as determined by the eligible agency; (3) secondary school credit; (4) integrated education and training,\* (5) career pathways,\* (6) concurrent enrollment,\* (7) peer tutoring,\* and (8) transition to re-entry initiatives and other post release services with the goal of reducing recidivism.\* Those marked with an asterisk (\*) are new in WIOA.<sup>1</sup>

**Priority of Service.**

Consistent with WIA, WIOA requires that eligible agencies that are using funds to carry out a program for criminal offenders in a correctional institution give priority to serving individuals who are likely to leave the correctional institution within 5 years of participation in the program.

**Investment in Correctional Education.**

WIOA requires that not more than 20 percent of the funds available to the state to award grants and contracts be used for corrections education and education of other institutionalized individuals. This is a significant change from WIA, which capped these expenditures at 10 percent.

**Performance Reporting.**

WIA required the same reports for corrections education as for other adult education programs. A new reporting section contained in WIOA<sup>2</sup> highlights the additional annual reporting requirements of WIOA-funded corrections programs. States must report for programs of corrections education and the education of other institutionalized individuals their progress in carrying out these programs, “including the relative rate of recidivism for the criminal offenders served.”

---

<sup>1</sup> Pub. L. 113-128, July 2014, Title II, Sec. 222(b).

<sup>2</sup> Pub. L. 113-128, July 2014, Title II, Sec. 225(d).

**Correctional Education Resources.** OCTAE supports states in meeting these new WOIA requirements through the following:

- The Office of Correctional Education maintains a [web page](#) with **updates and news** about correctional education.
- The publication [A Reentry Education Model: Supporting Education and Career Advancement for Low-Skill Individuals in Corrections](#), illustrates an education continuum to bridge the gap between prison and community-based education and training programs.
- The publication [Take Charge of Your Future: Get the Education and Training You Need](#) is a resource guide written for adults in and leaving correctional settings.
- **Teaching materials, research, and discussion** on correctional education are available through the LINCS [Resource Collection](#) and [online Community](#).

**Additional Resources:**

WIOA Resources are posted at:

[www.ed.gov/AEFLA](http://www.ed.gov/AEFLA)

For questions, please email:

[AskAEFLA@ed.gov](mailto:AskAEFLA@ed.gov)

Published March 24, 2015