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## PROGRAM MEMORANDUM ADED 23-02

**DATE:** July 11, 2023

**TO:** Adult Education and Literacy Council Directors

**FROM:** Dr. Trenia Miles, Director *TM*

**RE:** Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) Enrollment Requirements - Effective Immediately, Modifications for Enrollment and Assessments Scores

This program memorandum provides guidance on the enrollment requirements for the Adult Education Section's workforce preparation and training component, Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) program.

As a reminder, adult learners may immediately enroll in the WAGE™ Level I Workforce Preparation Certificate program without a minimum TABE and TABE CLAS-E assessment score. The WAGE™ Level I Certificate utilizes the work essentials curriculum of *Aztec* for Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Adult Secondary Education (ASE) learners and *Burlington English* for English Language Learners (ELL). Although the state will no longer financially support the work essentials component of Essential Education, programs may continue to utilize it after August 1, 2023 (See *Program Memo 23-01 Essential Education Statewide License Changes*).

The WAGE™ Level II Career Pathways Certificate, based on a learner's career assessment score, provides the learner with an introduction to one of the 16 Career Clusters. The state office is waiving the minimum TABE score to participate in the WAGE™ Level II Career Pathways Certificate Program, providing the state (adult education) an opportunity to collect data on individual learning levels and program entry requirements, ultimately identifying if a minimum TABE score is needed for participation.

To earn the WAGE™ Level I and Level II Certificates, adult learners must complete the required coursework with an 80% pass rate on each assignment. By lifting this requirement, if there are learners that did not receive their WAGE™ Level II Certificate due to not successfully post-testing at the 535 level of TABE (M, D, A) if all other requirements have been met, teachers may grade and process the Level II certificate in the industry-specific Canvas course. Completing the WAGE™ Level I Workforce Preparation Certificate is a prerequisite for the WAGE™ Level II Career Pathways Certificate.

One of the many benefits of the WAGE™ program is that adult learners can earn non-credential and credentialed certifications. These certifications give learners a sense of accomplishment and an opportunity to increase their earning potential. In addition, these certificates can be earned at no financial cost to the learner. Adult learners may earn the following credentials through the WAGE™ Scholarship program:

- WAGE™ Level I Workforce Preparation Certificate
  - \*CPR/First Aid/AED, Forklift, IC3, OSHA, Personal Care Assistant, ServSafe, etc.
    - \*These non-credential certificates will not count on NRS federal tables.  
However, state funding will be given for completion when documentation is uploaded in LACES.
  
- WAGE™ Level II Career Pathways Certificate
  - \*Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Certiport Specialist, CDL, CNC, National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), Phlebotomy, Plumbing, Welding, etc.
    - \*These are industry-recognized certifications and will count on NRS federal tables.

Although we continue to support adult learners' ability to earn stackable credentials, the goal is still for those without a high school diploma to complete their GED® while concurrently enrolled in a WAGE™/Integrated Education and Training (IET) program. Adult education programs must continue to follow the Arkansas Adult Education Assessment Policy and Distance Education Guidelines for administering assessments.

If you have any questions, please contact LaJuana Delph, State WAGE™ Coordinator, at [lajuana.delph@arkansas.gov](mailto:lajuana.delph@arkansas.gov) and copy your Program Advisor on all correspondence.