Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Washington, D.C. 20210



June 25, 2024

The Honorable Ron DeSantis Governor of Florida 400 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Thank you for your waiver request submission to the U.S. Department of Labor regarding certain statutory and regulatory provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the accompanying plan to improve the statewide workforce development system (enclosed). The waiver requests were received March 29, 2024, as part of your recent WIOA State Plan submission. This letter provides the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) official response to your request and memorializes that Florida will meet the outcomes and implement the measures identified in its plan to ensure accountability agreed to by Florida and ETA. This action is taken under the Secretary of Labor's authority to waive certain requirements of WIOA Title I, Subtitles A, B, and E, and Sections 8–10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act in WIOA Section 189(i).

<u>Requested Waiver</u>: Waiver of 20 CFR 681.550 to allow WIOA individual training accounts (ITAs) for in-school youth (ISY).

<u>ETA Response</u>: ETA approves for Program Years (PYs) 2024 and 2025, Florida's request to waive the requirement limiting ITAs to only out-of-school youth (OSY), ages 16–24. In addition to these OSY, Florida may use ITAs for ISY, ages 16–21. ETA reviewed Florida's waiver request and plan and has determined that the requirements requested to be waived impede the ability of Florida to implement its plan to improve the workforce development system. Approval of this waiver should not impede the State's efforts to prioritize OSY, including outreach to the OSY population.

<u>Requested Waiver</u>: Waiver associated with the requirement at WIOA Section 129(a)(4)(A) and 20 CFR 681.410 that the State and local areas expend 75 percent of Governor's reserve youth funds and local formula youth funds on OSY.

<u>ETA Response</u>: ETA approves for PY 2024 and 2025, which includes the entire time period for which states are authorized to spend each of those Program Year fund allotments, the State's request to waive the requirement that the State expend 75 percent of Governor's reserve youth funds on OSY. ETA reviewed Florida's waiver request and plan and has determined that the requirements requested to be waived impede the ability of Florida to implement its plan to improve the workforce development system. Florida may lower the expenditure requirement of Governor's reserve funds to 50 percent for OSY.

In addition, ETA approves for PY 2024 and 2025, which includes the entire time period for which states are authorized to spend each of those Program Year fund allotments, the State's request to waive the requirement that local areas expend 75 percent of local youth formula funds on OSY. Florida may lower the local youth funds expenditure requirement to 50 percent for OSY. As a result of this waiver, ETA expects that the number of ISY served will increase, and performance accountability outcomes for overall WIOA Youth (including both ISY and OSY) will remain steady or increase for the majority of the WIOA Youth performance indicators.

<u>Requested Waiver</u>: Waiver of the reallocation provisions at WIOA Sections 128(c)(3) and 133(c)(3) to allow the state workforce development board to develop different criteria than required by statute for the reallocation of recaptured funds among local workforce areas.

<u>ETA Response</u>: ETA approves through June 30, 2028, Florida's request to waive the reallocation provisions at WIOA Sections 128(c)(3) and 133(c)(3). Florida may reallocate recaptured funds according to State-developed criteria. ETA reviewed Florida's waiver request and plan and has determined that the requirements requested to be waived impede its ability to implement its plan to improve the workforce development system. Under this waiver, Florida has the discretion to consider additional factors described in its waiver plan in determining local workforce development area eligibility for reallocation of recaptured funds. As such, Florida may only consider:

- The amount available for redistribution;
- Amount requested by the local board;
- Demonstrated need for and ability to use additional funds to serve low-income individuals, public assistance recipients, dislocated workers, and unemployment insurance claimants;
- A demonstrated capacity to effectively expend funds to address the need for services in the workforce development area;
- A local board's established plan for working with at least one of the Governor's industry clusters as specified in the local workforce area's plan; and
- The local workforce area's performance during the current and prior performance years.

Florida must make public its reallocation procedure and policy, as well as any future changes to the policy. Please note that the approved waiver only applies to reallocation and not recapture. ETA requires the State to track implementation results and outcomes of this waiver.

Florida must report its waiver outcomes and implementation of the approved waivers in the WIOA Annual Report. ETA will use this information to assess continued waiver approval and to identify promising practices that may be adopted more widely. ETA is available to provide technical assistance to you in support of your goals. If you have questions, feel free to contact my office at (202) 693-2772.

Sincerely,

For Zi Podríny

José Javier Rodríguez

Enclosure

cc: Lindsay Volpe, Deputy Secretary of Florida Workforce Services Kimberly Staley, ETA Regional Administrator - Atlanta Jeffrey Patton, ETA Federal Project Officer Latanya Lowery, ETA Federal Project Officer

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State of Florida Waiver Request Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) In-School Youth Individual Training Accounts

Statutory and/or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived

The State of Florida (State) is requesting a renewal of the waiver of 20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 681.550, which allows Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) individual training accounts (ITAs) for out-of-school youth (OSY), ages 16 to 24, using WIOA youth funds when appropriate.

20 CFR 681.550 allows ITAs funded by WIOA youth funds to be used for OSY. The final rule did not expand the use of ITAs for in-school youth (ISY). Instead, ISY wishing to access ITAs may only do so through coenrollment in the WIOA Adult program. The State would like to waive the requirement limiting ITAs to only OSY and expand this use of ITAs to ISY, ages 14-21. Over the prior three program years (PY), Florida served 23,443 OSY and 7,044 ISY. Additionally, from PYs 2020-2021 to 2021-2022, Florida experienced a 62.5 percent decrease in the number of ISY served. Waiver of this requirement will provide greater flexibility with, and increase the State's capacity for, responding to the training and employment needs of the State's youth.

Actions the State Has Undertaken to Remove State or Local Barriers

There are no state, local, statutory, or regulatory barriers to implementing the waiver.

Strategic Goals of the Waiver

The strategic goals associated with this waiver are to:

- 1. Address the talent pipeline shortages faced by many employers by ensuring the State's youth have the skills and preparation needed to enter the workforce and become contributing members of the local and State economy.
- 2. Increase opportunities for youth to acquire occupational skills in post-secondary settings irrespective of their education status.
- 3. Enhance partnerships with schools and preparing ISY for post-secondary education in occupations that lead to self-sufficiency.

Alignment with U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration Policy Priorities

WIOA encourages strategies that connect education and training and support educational opportunities to improve job and career results. This waiver request is being made to permit local workforce development boards' use of the State's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) to provide training through an ITA to ISY who are preparing to complete secondary education and begin post-secondary education.

This waiver request will also increase the connection between education and training by providing workbased learning opportunities that include work experiences and will increase access to workforce services for ISY.

Projected Programmatic Outcomes Resulting from Implementation of the Waiver

The State expects to achieve the following goals and programmatic outcomes as a result of this waiver:

- 1. Improve the local workforce development boards' and youth service providers' ability to respond to the workforce needs of ISY.
- 2. Increase the number of youth who utilize an ITA to pursue an industry-recognized postsecondary credential by five percent.
- 3. Increase access to, and engagement of, ISY in need of post-secondary education, training, and support necessary to succeed in the labor market and meet current high-growth industry demand in the State through acquisition of portable credentials, college credit, and a degree.
- 4. Improvement in the primary indicators of performance for the WIOA Youth program as set forth in WIOA Section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii), thus increasing credential attainment and measurable skills gains by five percent.
- 5. Increase the number of prepared youth candidates who are ready to work by five percent.

Description of Individuals, Groups, or Populations Impacted by the Waiver

- 1. Employers.
- 2. The State's ISY populations.
- 3. Youth service providers.
- 4. The State's career centers and the one-stop delivery system.

The Process to Monitor the Waived Activities and Collect Waiver Outcome Information

Annual WIOA on-site and remote programmatic reviews will include an evaluation of how the waiver is being utilized locally and the success of achieving the stated goals and outcomes. Youth service providers will also be responsible for assessing the use and effectiveness of the waiver.

Most Recent Data Available Regarding the Results and Outcomes Observed Through the Implementation of the Existing Waiver

The State's waiver request was approved on March 9, 2023, and was implemented by the state leading into PY 2023. Therefore, the State and local workforce development boards (LWDBs) are continuing to develop strategies to fully operationalize this waiver and do not yet have a full program year of data to evaluate the outcomes observed through the implementation of the waiver. In the interim, the below data represents information available for the most recent fully complete program years.

In-School Youth and Out-of-School Youth Enrolled in Education or Training Programs Leading to Credentials

| ΡΥ | Program | OSY in Education and Training | OSY w/ Measurable skill gains | OSY Measurable Skill Gain Rate | ISY in Education and Training | ISY with Measurable Skill Gain | ISY Measurable Skill Gain Rate |
|------|---------|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2021 | Youth | 2843 | 2018 | 71.0% | 1107 | 727 | 65.7% |
| 2022 | Youth | 2976 | 2254 | 75.7% | 843 | 707 | 83.9% |

The above chart provides the number of ISY and OSY enrolled in education or training programs leading to a recognized credential by PY.

In-School Youth and Out-of-School Youth Enrolled in Education or Training Using an Individual Training Account

| РҮ | Program | Education and Training | Training Accounts | ISY Enrolled in Education and Training | Using Individual Training Accounts |
|------|---------|------------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2021 | Youth | 2843 | 804 | 1107 | 28 |
| 2022 | Youth | 2976 | 846 | 843 | 14 |

The above chart reflects the number of OSY and ISY that were enrolled in education or training <u>and</u> utilized an ITA to pursue an industry-recognized postsecondary credential. Based on the data provided, the number of youth using an ITA in PY 2022 decreased by 50 percent from the prior year. The State anticipates that as more LWDBs and youth service providers pivot to respond to the workforce needs of ISY, there will be a continued increase in the current and upcoming program years.

Opportunity for Local Workforce Development Board and Public Comment on the Waiver

Workforce development stakeholders, including LWDBs, businesses, and Chief Local Elected Officials, were notified of the State's waiver request through an email alert and post on CareerSource Florida's website. This included instructions on how to submit comments. In addition, both the public and stakeholders had access to the waiver request on CareerSource Florida's website, CareerSourceFlorida.com, in the WIOA combined plan. The public comment period was open for 30 calendar days; no comments were received.

State of Florida Waiver Request Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Recapture and Reallocation of Funds Among Local Areas

Statutory and/or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived

The State of Florida (State) is requesting a renewal of the waiver from the provisions of WIOA Sections 128(c)(3) and 133(c) regarding reallocation of funds among local workforce development areas (local areas). This waiver will provide flexibility to the Florida Department of Commerce (FloridaCommerce) in recapturing and reallocating WIOA funds among local areas.

Actions the State Has Undertaken to Remove State or Local Barriers

There are no state, local, statutory, or regulatory barriers to implementing the requested waiver.

In the 2021 Legislative Session, through the passage of the Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act (House Bill 1507), the Florida Legislature adopted amendments to Chapter 445, Florida Statutes (F.S.). One key change introduced by the REACH Act was the creation of section 445.006(4), F.S., which authorizes FloridaCommerce to prepare a waiver to the U.S. Department of Labor that allows the Governor to reallocate funds among local areas that have a demonstrated need for additional funding and programmatic outcomes that will maximize the use of the additional funds to serve low-income individuals, public assistance recipients, dislocated workers, and unemployment insurance claimants (referred to as Reemployment Assistance claimants in Florida).

Strategic Goals of the Waiver

FloridaCommerce requests to continue this waiver to support the State's goal of ensuring that funds are effectively managed and used for maximum service provision and program performance. Approval of this waiver will allow FloridaCommerce to continue meeting the following strategic goals:

- Utilize a methodology established for recapturing funds from local areas that considers factors in addition to the obligations that meet the definition in 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 200.1, such as:
 - a. Funds that have been earmarked for anticipated Individual Training Account (ITA) expenditures; and
 - b. Funds that local workforce development boards (LWDBs) must retain for training services provided through ITAs where successful job placement triggers the final payment to training providers of at least 10 percent¹.
- Make determinations to recapture funds by considering when one or more of the following circumstances may warrant an exception to FloridaCommerce's determination to recapture funds:
 - a. The LWDB was impacted by a natural disaster or other emergency that resulted in a reduced demand for workforce services;
 - b. The LWDB received non-WIOA funds that impacted the utilization of WIOA formula funds;
 - c. There were significant issues that impacted the local economy; or

¹ Section 445.009(8)(e)

- d. The LWDB was a direct provider of workforce services and, therefore, was unable to meet obligation requirements due to a lack of contractual obligations.
- 3. Redistribute recaptured funds based on the reallocation procedures established in 20 CFR 683.140, as well as factors established by FloridaCommerce, to ensure funds are reallocated to local areas with the greatest need. FloridaCommerce will determine the amounts to be redistributed to local areas based on factors such as:
 - a. Requested amount;
 - b. Demonstrated need for and ability to use additional funds to serve low-income individuals, public assistance recipients, dislocated workers, and Reemployment Assistance claimants;
 - c. Demonstrated capacity to expend the formula funds; and
 - d. Performance in the current and prior program year.
- 4. Facilitate maximum expenditure of recaptured federal funds. FloridaCommerce seeks to redistribute WIOA funds to local areas that have achieved not only targeted obligation and expenditure levels, but also established performance targets.

Alignment with U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration Policy Priorities

WIOA focuses on serving individuals with barriers to employment and seeks to ensure access to quality services for these populations. This waiver request aligns with this focus by ensuring the State has an effective mechanism for recapturing and reallocating funds to local areas most in need for the specific purpose of serving low-income individuals, public assistance recipients, dislocated workers, and Reemployment Assistance claimants.

Projected Programmatic Outcomes Resulting from Implementation of the Waiver

The State expects to continue to achieve the following goals and programmatic outcomes as a result of this waiver:

- 1. Ensure the State continues to have an effective methodology for recapturing and reallocating funds;
- 2. Ensure funds will be more effectively and efficiently managed for maximum service provision and program performance; and
- 3. Enhance the quality of services in those local areas that have demonstrated consistent performance outcomes.

Continued approval of this waiver will provide the opportunity for recaptured funds to be redistributed to local areas where the greatest potential impact may be realized. Further, it will grant the State the flexibility to consider extenuating circumstances faced by LWDBs that may impact the recapture or reallocation of funds.

If FloridaCommerce applied the federal requirements for reallocating WIOA funds for PY 2022 of the 24 local boards:

- 1. Adult funds would have been recaptured from no local boards.
 - a. 18 of the 24 local boards serve as direct providers of workforce services.
 - b. 24 local boards would be eligible to be reallocated Adult funds.
- 2. Dislocated worker (DW) funds would have been recaptured from three local boards.

- a. 18 of the 24 local boards serve as direct providers of workforce services.
- b. 21 local boards would be eligible to be reallocated DW funds.
- 3. Youth funds would have been recaptured from one of the 24 local boards.
 - a. 11 of the 24 local boards serve as direct providers of workforce services.
 - b. 23 local boards would be eligible to be reallocated Youth funds.

Description of Individuals, Groups, or Populations Impacted by the Waiver

- 1. Low-income individuals
- 2. Public assistance recipients
- 3. Dislocated workers
- 4. Reemployment Assistance claimants

The Process to Monitor the Waived Activities and Collect Waiver Outcome Information

FloridaCommerce will monitor progress under this waiver by monitoring the obligation and expenditure levels of LWDBs no less than monthly, providing technical assistance to LWDBs with obligations and expenditures that are trending low, hosting regularly scheduled calls with LWDB executive directors, and using FloridaCommerce's monitoring and performance accountability system. FloridaCommerce will continue to report waiver outcomes in the State's WIOA Annual Report.

Most Recent Data Available Regarding the Results and Outcomes Observed Through the Implementation of the Existing Waiver

Since the waiver was approved on December 6, 2022, it has provided the State with the flexibility to redistribute recaptured funds to local areas if the State determines the greatest potential may be realized, thus ensuring more effective and more efficient use of federal funds. The State has not yet exercised the provisions of this waiver; however, will continue to apply this strategy, when needed, and monitor outcomes.

Opportunity for Local Workforce Development Board and Public Comment on the Waiver

Workforce development stakeholders, including LWDBs, businesses, and Chief Local Elected Officials, were notified of the State's waiver request through an email alert and post on CareerSource Florida's website. This included instructions on how to submit comments. In addition, both the public and stakeholders had access to the waiver request on CareerSource Florida's website, CareerSourceFlorida.com, in the WIOA combined plan. The public comment period was open for 30 calendar days; no comments were received.

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State of Florida Waiver Renewal Request Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Out-of-School Youth Expenditure Requirement

Statutory and/or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived

The State of Florida (State) is requesting a renewal of the waiver of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Section 129(a)(4)(A) and 20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 681.410, which requires state and local areas to expend 75 percent of Governor's reserve youth funds and local formula youth funds on out-of-school youth (OSY).

The State is requesting to renew the waiver of the requirement to expend 75 percent of Governor's reserve youth funds and local formula youth funds on OSY.

The State is requesting that this minimum expenditure requirement continue be lowered to 50 percent.

The State has been able to meet the required 75 percent expenditure rate for OSY since WIOA began, in part, due to local workforce development boards (LWDBs) reducing or ceasing services for in-school youth (ISY). The State is requesting to lower the OSY expenditure rate to 50 percent for statewide and local area activities because the State and local areas see a need to serve more ISY. Over the prior three program years (PY), Florida served 23,443 OSY and 7,044 ISY. Additionally, from PYs 2021-2022 to 2022-2023, Florida experienced a 27.5 percent decrease in the number of ISY served. The State seeks to expand partnerships with schools and community programs to serve populations such as at-risk ISY. Based on data from the Florida Department of Education, of Florida's 67 counties, 31.3 percent have a dropout rate of five percent or more with 20.3 percent being the highest. By investing additional funds for ISY at-risk of dropping out of school, the State expects to lower the number of youth who drop out of school.

The State will continue to serve OSY by providing occupational skills training, work-based learning, to include employer-provided training programs like pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship, tutoring/study skills, education and workforce preparation activities, leadership development opportunities, supportive services, mentoring, guidance and counseling, financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills training, career counseling, transition to post-secondary education activities, and follow up services.

Actions the State Has Undertaken to Remove State or Local Barriers

There are no state, local, statutory, or regulatory barriers to implementing the waiver.

Strategic Goals of the Waiver

This waiver will allow the State to support its strategic goals with targeted strategies aimed to reduce barriers and increase employability for its slightly more than 2.3 million youth. There are several barriers experienced by at-risk ISY that impact their ability to avoid dropping out or obtaining/retaining gainful employment. Some of these barriers include:

• Lower labor force participation - In 2022, the labor participation rate was 30 percent for younger youth ages 16-19 with an estimated 31.6 percent for March 2024. The age group of 16-19 is the target age group that is at risk of experiencing challenges to remain in school and earn a high diploma or its equivalent.

- Poverty rate It is estimated that 17.2 percent of youth in Florida live in poverty.
- Unemployment rate The unemployment rate for youth ages 16-19 is approximately 9.8 percent while Florida's unemployment rate is slightly more than three percent.

The strategic goals associated with this waiver are to:

- 1. Address the talent pipeline shortages faced by many employers by ensuring the State's youth have the skills and preparation needed to enter the workforce and become contributing members of the local and State economy.
- 2. Allow local areas to serve OSY and ISY in a way that best meets the needs of the local workforce area according to populations, resources, and other labor market factors.
- 3. Expand opportunities at the local level for recruitment and enrollment of at-risk ISY who could benefit from the services of the workforce system.
- 4. Allow the State to spend its federal WIOA resources with more flexibility.

Alignment with U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration Policy Priorities

WIOA encourages strategies that connect education and training, support work-based learning, and improve job and career results. This waiver will increase at-risk ISY access to opportunities for necessary education, training, employment, and support services. Generally, this waiver will align with WIOA's career pathways strategy and prepare more ISY for in-demand careers. Approving this waiver request will increase the connection between education and training, provide work-based learning opportunities that include work experience and pre-apprenticeship, and increase access to workforce services for ISY. Specifically, this waiver will align with the following USDOL policy priorities, as found in the USDOL Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, WIOA, and federal regulations:

- The USDOL ETA has a strategic objective to create customer-focused workforce solutions for American workers, including development of a strong youth pipeline;
- The ETA has prioritized improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of workforce development programs, including supporting state and local flexibilities to enable these entities to effectively tailor their workforce strategies to meet their needs;
- The ETA focuses on programs that support work-based learning, skills development, and work readiness while promoting training strategies that lead to credential attainment and closing the skills gap;
- The ETA has prioritized implementation of evidence-based programs and strategies, including adoption of proven programs and strategies;
- WIOA places a strong emphasis on work experience for youth participants, requiring that 20 percent of WIOA Youth funding be expended on this element;
- WIOA promotes strong partnerships to leverage resources and increase opportunities for youth; and
- WIOA prioritizes participant success, as measured by skill gains, entry into and retention of employment or post-secondary education attendance, and achievement of an industry-recognized credential.

Projected Programmatic Outcomes Resulting from Implementation of the Waiver

This waiver will allow the State and LWDBs to develop strategies that address challenges of at-risk youth whether in school or out and will help address student retention, engagement, and immediate transition to post-secondary education, meaningful employment, and/or the military. Expected outcomes for youth participants include an increase of five percent in the:

- Number that attain a measurable skill gain.
- Number that attend post-secondary education.
- Number that participate in occupational skills training.
- Number of ISY who participate in work experience opportunities.
- Number that earn an industry-recognized credential.

Description of Individuals, Groups, or Populations Impacted by the Waiver

- 1. Future employers.
- 2. Florida at-risk ISY and OSY populations.
- 3. Youth service providers.
- 4. Florida career centers and the one-stop delivery system.

The Process to Monitor the Waived Activities and Collect Waiver Outcome Information

Annual WIOA on-site and remote programmatic reviews will include an evaluation of how the waiver is being utilized locally and the success of achieving the stated goals and outcomes. Youth service providers will also be responsible for assessing the use and effectiveness of the waiver.

Most Recent Data Available Regarding the Results and Outcomes Observed Through the Implementation of the Existing Waiver

The State's waiver request was approved on March 9, 2023, and was implemented by the state leading into PY 2023. Therefore, the State and LWDBs are continuing to develop strategies to fully operationalize this waiver and do not yet have a full program year of data to evaluate the outcomes observed through the implementation of the waiver. In the interim, the below data represents information available for the most recent fully complete program years.

The first chart below provides a comparison of the total number of OSY and ISY served statewide for PY 2021 and PY 2022. For both program years, Florida met its OSY expenditure rate at more than 75 percent. The latter chart compares new ISY and OSY participations from PY 2021 to PY 2022. Florida saw an increase of 74 new ISY participations in PY 2022 compared to the prior year. Florida anticipates continued growth in the number of new ISY enrollments over the upcoming program years as more LWDBs expand opportunities at the local level for recruitment and enrollment of at-risk ISY.

| | ΡΥ | Program | OSY Youth Participants | ISY Youth Participants | Total Youth Participants |
|----|------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SW | 2021 | Youth Participants | 4302 (78.7%) | 1167 (21.3%) | 5469 |
| SW | 2022 | Youth Participants | 4322 (83%) | 881 (16.9%) | 5203 |

Out-of-School Youth and In-School Youth Participation for Program Years 2021-2022

| | ΡΥ | Program | New OSY Youth Participants | New ISY Youth Participants | Total New Youth Participants |
|----|------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| SW | 2021 | New Youth Participants | 2363 | 347 | 2,710 |
| SW | 2022 | New Youth Participants | 2604 | 421 | 3,025 |

Below are counts of ISY and OSY enrolled in education or training programs leading to a recognized credential by PY. In summary, ISY enrollments decreased in education or training programs leading to a credential in PY 2022 from the prior year. Although ISY enrollments in education or training programs decreased in PY 2022, Florida experienced an increase in the number of ISY that obtained a measurable skill gain from the prior year.

In-School Youth and Out-of-School Youth Enrolled in Education or Training Programs Leading to Credentials

| РҮ | Program | OSY in Education and Training | OSY w/ Measurable skill gains | OSY Measurable Skill Gain Rate | ISY in Education and Training | ISY with Measurable Skill Gain | ISY Measurable Skill Gain Rate |
|------|---------|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2021 | Youth | 2843 | 2018 | 71.0% | 1107 | 727 | 65.7% |
| 2022 | Youth | 2976 | 2254 | 75.7% | 843 | 707 | 83.9% |

Additional data points include:

- 48% of PY 2022's ISY were new participants compared to only 30% in the prior year.
- Measurable skill gain rates for ISY increased 18.2% in PY 2022 from the prior year.
- 355 of the 421 (84.3%) new ISY participants in PY 2022 have measurable skill gains (not represented here).

Opportunity for Local Workforce Development Board and Public Comment on the Waiver

Workforce development stakeholders, including LWDBs, businesses, and Chief Local Elected Officials, were notified of the State's waiver request through an email alert and post on CareerSource Florida's website. This included instructions on how to submit comments. In addition, both the public and stakeholders had access to the waiver request on CareerSource Florida's website, CareerSourceFlorida.com, in the WIOA combined plan. The public comment period was open for 30 calendar days; no comments were received.