

WIOA YOUTH BACHELOR'S DEGREE POLICY

Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, Inc. LWIA #26

Title IY funds allocated to the 14 counties of the Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board Area 26 may be used, **depending on funding eligibility**, to provide financial assistance to eligible WIOA Youth seeking a baccalaureate degree. To be eligible to receive financial assistance for a baccalaureate degree program:

- 1) The bachelor's degree program that the participant is seeking is available and can be obtained at a public college or university within the state of Illinois, or at a four year public college or public university that agrees to waive out of state tuition fees or, if the participant agrees to pay the difference between in-state tuition and out-of-state tuition.
- 2) The eligible youth must have completed their secondary education with a "C" average and exhibit the maturity and the ability to complete a baccalaureate program.
- 3) The eligible youth's associate degree must be obtained through a local community college whose district they reside in unless that college does not offer the associate degree the student is seeking. Any transferable credits beyond their associate's degree toward their bachelor's degree will be obtained from a local community college when possible. Local community college is defined as a community college whose college district includes any of the 14 counties that comprise Local WIOA #26. Students already possessing an associate degree are exempt from this requirement.
- 4) The eligible youth will consult with a WIOA career planner and the community college advisor to map their individual bachelor's degree program requirements to achieve the maximum transferable credits.
- 5) The bachelor's degree will be in a high growth area which will lead to employment in the local area unless the participant signs a relocation agreement.