



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON

children
& families

Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count

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Legislative Action to Reform Adult Basic Education and Increase Access to Financial Aid for Working Adults

1. Require the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) to track:
 1. the numbers of students entering *adult basic education* programming
 2. those that complete basic education programming and gain the GED
 3. those that then transition to post-GED programming
 4. what programs these students enter (ex. certificates, technical diplomas, associate degree programs, bachelors degree programs)
 5. whether they complete any post-GED programming within a set number of years

These data points are to include the numbers of *all* students entering, then gaining the GED and then transitioning, not merely those who have stated college completion or obtaining that credential as a goal as is currently done.

Report back to the legislature annually on these numbers.

2. Legislature to set a 5-year goal with annual benchmarks for improving transition rates from adult basic education to post-GED programming.
3. Prohibit Wisconsin Technical Colleges from requiring prior completion of the GED before beginning certificate, technical diploma, and degree programs, allowing for "dual enrollment" as a way of accelerating completion of post-GED programs that have proven to bring the most significant employment and earnings payoff, as well as opening up more financial aid options.

The WTCS may establish exceptions to this rule in specific cases where requiring prior completion of the GED before beginning certain degree programs is appropriate (as determined by meeting reasoned criteria developed by the WTCS).

4. Expand eligibility for Wisconsin Higher Education Grants to Less-Than-Half-Time Students.