

Workforce Diploma Pilot Program

2019-20 Fact Sheet



COLORADO
Department of Education

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Approximately 350,000 adults in Colorado currently do not have a high school credential. In order to meet workforce goals for future economic growth, these Coloradans need to be reengaged. The Workforce Diploma Pilot Program ([HB19-1236](#); C.R.S. 22-10.3-101) was established during the 2019 legislative session to support Colorado adults ages 21 and older without a high school credential. The pilot was authorized to operate for three years (2019-2022). For the 2019-20 fiscal year, the legislature appropriated \$1 million for reimbursements for qualified providers and \$12,201 for program administration. The Adult Education Initiatives Office (AEI) at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) oversees the program.

Adults eligible to participate in this program must:

- be at least 21 years old,
- be a resident of Colorado, and
- not have a high school diploma.

Qualified providers may request reimbursement for each eligible adult's completion or attainment of the following outcomes:

- attainment of an accredited high school diploma
- completion of a high school half-credit
- completion of an employability skills certification program equal to at least one Carnegie unit
- attainment of an industry-recognized credential requiring up to 50 hours of training
- attainment of an industry-recognized credential requiring 51-100 hours of training
- attainment of an industry-recognized credential requiring more than 100 hours of training

All qualified providers must provide services at no cost to eligible adults.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS PROCESS

To be eligible for this program, providers must be:

- A public, nonprofit, or private accredited, diploma-granting institution with at least two years of experience providing adult dropout recovery services, including recruitment, learning plan development, and proactive coaching and mentoring; or
- A local education provider (defined in C.R.S. 22-10-103(7) as an entity that provides appropriate and effective adult education and literacy programs recognized by the Department of Education).

Eight organizations applied to be providers. Based on the criteria outlined in C.R.S. 22-10.3-103, six of the organizations are approved to be providers and were eligible to receive reimbursements; two are libraries, two are private companies, one is a school district and one is a college. Once an approved provider, the organization does not need to reapply annually unless a provider fails to meet performance standards for two consecutive years. Although the Colorado General Assembly appropriated \$1 million for reimbursements to qualified providers, over \$1.2 million were proposed by the qualified providers as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: 2019-20 Qualified Provider Proposed Reimbursements

Reimbursement Type	Reimbursement Amount	Proposed Number of Reimbursements	Total Proposed Reimbursement Amount
High School Diploma	\$1,000	331	\$331,000
High School Half-Credit	\$250	3459	\$864,750
Employability Skills Certification Program Equal to at Least One Carnegie Unit	\$250	223	\$55,750
Industry-Recognized Credential Requiring Up to 50 Hours of Training	\$250	78	\$19,500
Industry-Recognized Credential Requiring 51-100 Hours of Training	\$500	21	\$10,500
Industry-Recognized Credential Requiring More Than 100 Hours of Training	\$750	11	\$8,250
Totals	N/A	4,921	\$1,289,750

QUALIFIED PROVIDER OUTCOMES

Qualified providers were able to request reimbursement for outcomes eligible adults earned from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. By the last request for reimbursement deadline, there were not enough funds remaining to fully reimburse the qualified providers; per C.R.S. 10-10.3-103(6)(a), “If available appropriations are insufficient to satisfy all invoices received by the submission date, the department shall reduce all payments by the same percentage until the money is exhausted.” Following this language in the statute, any provider that submitted a request for reimbursement during the last month had their payment decreased accordingly.

The annual reporting requirements for the program are outlined in C.R.S. 22-10.3-104. C.R.S. 22-10.3(7) directs CDE to “review data from each qualified provider to ensure the programs offered by each qualified provider are meeting minimum program performance standards,” which includes the high school graduation rate and cost per graduate. The high school graduation rate outlined in Table 2 “is determined by dividing the total number of high school graduates for the cohort year by the total number of all students for the cohort year for which the qualified provider has received payments.” The cost per graduate shown in Table 2 is “determined by dividing the total payments received by the qualified provider for the cohort year divided by the total number of students earning a high school diploma.”

TABLE 2: 2019-20 Workforce Diploma Pilot Program Reimbursement Summary

Eligible Provider	Provider Type	Total Students	High School Half-Credits	Employ-ability Skills Certificates	Industry Recognized Credentials (0-50 Hrs)	Industry Recognized Credentials (51-100 Hrs)	Industry Recognized Credentials (100+ Hrs)	High School Diplomas	Graduation Rate	Total 2019-20 Reimbursement	Cost Per Graduate
Colorado Mountain College	College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	\$0	\$0
GlobalEd Solutions	Private Company	40	201	1	0	0	0	3	8%	\$53,250	\$17,750
Graduation Alliance. Inc.	Private Company	286	2,797	248	9	0	0	54	19%	\$796,415	\$14,748
Mclain High School (Jeffco)	School District	53	301	0	0	0	0	21	40%	\$95,750	\$4,560
Pikes Peak Library District Adult Education	Library or Library System	17	151	10	0	0	0	10	59%	\$50,500	\$5,050
Pueblo City-County Library District	Library or Library System	11	0	0	0	0	0	11	100%	\$11,000	\$1,000
2019-20 Totals		407	3450	259	9	0	0	99	24%	\$1,006,915	\$10,171

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Workforce Diploma Pilot Program Webpage, including Provider List - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/wdgp>

Authorizing Legislation, HB19-1236 - https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2019a_1236_signed.pdf

Workforce Diploma Pilot Program Frequently Asked Questions - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/wdppfaq>