Career Pathways: WIOA’s Definition

The term ‘‘career pathway’’ means a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that—

(A) aligns with the skill needs of industries in the economy of the State or regional economy involved;

(B) prepares an individual to be successful in any of a full range of secondary or postsecondary education options, including registered apprenticeships;

(C) includes counseling to support an individual in achieving the individual’s education and career goals;

(D) includes, as appropriate, education oﬀered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a speciﬁc occupation or occupational cluster;

(E) organizes education, training, and other services to meet the particular needs of an individual in a manner that accelerates the educational and career advancement of the individual to the extent practicable;

(F) enables an individual to align a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and at least 1 recognized postsecondary credential; and

(G) helps an individual enter or advance within a speciﬁc occupation or occupational cluster.

Workforce Preparation Activities

Definition: The term ‘‘workforce preparation activities” means activities, programs, or services designed to help an individual acquire a combination of basic academic skills, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and self-management skills, including competencies in utilizing resources, using information, working with others, understanding systems, and obtaining skills necessary for successful transition into and completion of postsecondary education or training, or employment. (Sec. 203(17)).

Digital Literacy Skills

# Q7. WIOA adds a new definition of “workforce preparation” that includes “digital literacy.” How is digital literacy defined?

For purposes of the WIOA, the term “digital literacy skills” is defined consistent with the definition contained in the Museum and Library Services Act of 2010, which means “the skills associated with using technology to enable users to find, evaluate, organize, create, and communicate information.” (Pub. L. 111-340, 22 Dec. 2010)