

# The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA)

By Sarah Mueller and Liz Weintraub

PLAIN LANGUAGE SERIES

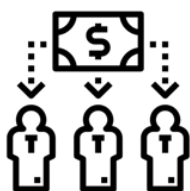
ISSUE NO. 4, 2020

This publication was created based on *The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA): An Overview of the Law and Implications for College Students with Intellectual Disability*, Think College Insight Brief, Issue No. 7.



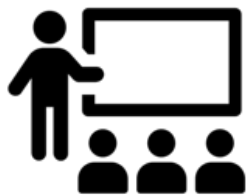
## What is the WIOA?

[The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or WIOA](#) became law in 2014 and reauthorized the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Reauthorized means making a law newer. This law provides money for state vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs and supports students with intellectual disabilities (ID) to find a job.



## What is Competitive Integrated Employment?

WIOA says what Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) is. Competitive means a job making the same pay or at least minimum pay like everyone else. Integrated means a job where people with and without disabilities work together. So, CIE is a job where the person with a disability is working with co-workers without disabilities in the community and makes at least minimum wage. Minimum wage is set by the federal government and is currently \$7.25 per hour, but some states decided to make it higher.



## What does WIOA say states have to do?

WIOA says state vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs have to:

- Set aside 15% of the money from the federal government to support young adults with disabilities to go from school to work.
- Collect and report data on students going to college. Data is information and facts about something.
- Work with other other agencies, including your high school, to help students go from high school to college to work or just high school to work.
- Train staff so that they are good at helping people with disabilities find jobs.
- Share information about college programs to students with disabilities and families.
- Provide young adults with disabilities pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS). Pre-ETS are things that get you ready to have a job like how to write a resume, interview skills, communication skills, independent living skills, self-advocacy, and other skills. Pre-ETS can also provide help with finding internships or after-school jobs.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Sarah Mueller is 2019 Disability Policy Fellow at AUCD. Liz Weintraub is Senior Advocacy Specialist on the Public Policy Team at AUCD.

### RECOMMENDED CITATION

Mueller, S., and Weintraub, L. (2020). *The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA)*. Plain Language Series, Issue No. 4. Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Boston, Institute for Community Inclusion.

The development of this Plain Language Series publication was funded by a grant from the Office of Postsecondary Education (Grant No. P407B100002).

