

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION LETTER

ID/No: WD 06-00

Date: February 14, 2000

Key Word: WIA

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
LWDA Coordinators
TWC Executive Staff
TWC Local Offices

From: Jean Mitchell, Director of Workforce Development

Subject: The Youth Council Function of Local Workforce Development Boards

PURPOSE:

To recommend to Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) that they form, in their capacities as Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Councils, Youth Advisory Groups to advise them on youth issues.

REFERENCE:

Workforce Investment Act, Section 117 (h) and (i)

BACKGROUND:

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) requires the appointment of both a Workforce Investment Board and a separate Youth Council. Rather than appoint new entities, Texas exercised its grandfather provision under WIA and established LWDBs as both Workforce Investment Boards and Youth Councils.

In exercising the grandfathering provisions, changes in the composition of LWDBs are not allowed. Any variance from the LWDB composition would nullify the grandfather provisions, and Texas would be required to be in full compliance with WIA requirements for Workforce Investment Boards and the formation of separate Youth Councils.

LWDBs must function as Youth Councils under the grandfather provisions of WIA and are, therefore, not subject to WIA Youth Council membership requirements that center on members with youth expertise. Because of this, LWDBs are encouraged to establish Youth Advisory Groups whose membership and duties mirror, to the extent possible, those required for WIA Youth Councils to advise them on youth issues.

PROCEDURES:

LWDBs are encouraged to establish Youth Advisory Groups to advise LWDBs on youth issues. The Youth Advisory Groups, whose membership requirements could mirror those listed for Youth Councils in WIA, are strictly advisory and non-voting. LWDBs may not delegate their responsibilities to the Youth Advisory Groups.

The Youth Advisory Groups may work with any existing LWDB youth committees or function as separate entities that focus on youth issues (e.g. School-to-Career Partnerships).

The benefits of forming Youth Advisory Groups are twofold:

- The groups would enhance LWDBs’ existing youth services work by providing assistance with: youth plan development, eligible youth provider oversight and youth services coordination.
- The groups’ membership, if designed similarly to WIA Youth Council membership requirements, would be advantageous because of the inclusion of youth experts on the Youth Advisory Group who offer a more focused, youth-oriented perspective.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

LWDBs should develop local policies and procedures that address their roles as Youth Councils under the grandfather requirements of WIA. Those policies and procedures should also address the development of Youth Advisory Groups (if applicable) and how these groups work with LWDBs.

INQUIRIES:

Direct inquires to Billie O’Dowdy via e-mail at billie.odowdy@twc.state.tx.us or at (512) 936-0390.

Rescissions: None	Expiration: Continuing
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