

THE STATE OF WORKPLACE EDUCATION IN THE STATES

OKLAHOMA

Funding

- Oklahoma supports its workplace education programs with 75% Federal money and 25% state money.
- Additionally, employers contribute through in-kind donations, more specifically, by providing space and release time for employees.

Current Initiatives

Oklahoma is implementing *Widening Opportunities in the Workplace* (WOW). Under WOW, teachers are given eight days of intensive training, followed by the formulation of an advisory committee; the job shadowing of a worker; the determination of essential and critical tasks; and, ultimately, the creation of a customized curriculum. WOW encompasses traditional Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and facilitates significant transferable skills. Employers calculate a ROI with regards to participation in work-based education.

The Adult and Career Development Division of Oklahoma serves as an additional resource to lifelong learning opportunities and to workforce training programs by providing technical resources, implementation support, partnership opportunities, and statewide coordination and collaboration opportunities.

Barriers to Workplace Education

- Business needs to take priority over workplace education programs, making entry into certain businesses difficult.
- Oklahoma has encountered an interesting challenge with regard to teachers. There has been a paradigm shift in that the state is now faced with finding teachers who are willing to be trained specifically for employer- and business-driven programs.

Location of programs

- 98% of workplace education programs are offered on-site.

Responsibility for implementation

- Of the 41 workplace education programs in Oklahoma, all but a few are implemented at the local level by learning centers and LEA's.

Support Services

- Training
- Curriculum Development
- Marketing
- Partnership Building
- Policies and support for one-stops

One-Stop Connections

- Adult workplace education initiatives are largely connected to One-Stop services.

Workplace Education Program Qualities

State	Local Partners	Enrollment	State Staff	State Led Effort
Oklahoma	One-Stop Title I participants	Approximately 5%	Part-time, Contractual	Yes

This information was compiled with the assistance of staff from the Adult Education Section of the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and from statements posted on the websites, <http://sde.state.ok.us/pro/abe.html> and <http://www.okcareertech.org/acd/index.htm>.