

THE STATE OF WORKPLACE EDUCATION IN THE STATES

VIRGINIA

Funding

- Virginia supports its workplace education programs with approximately 95% federal funding and 5% state and other funding.
- Additionally, employers contribute both through targeted and in-kind donations.

Current Initiatives

Workforce Improvement Network (WIN), which is a partnership between James Madison University and the Virginia Literacy Foundation, is funded by the Office of Adult Education of the Virginia Department of Education and has been in existence since 1996. In the past two years, however, WIN's emphasis on workplace education has lessened. WIN's mission is to encourage and support the development and expansion of customized foundational basic skill instruction for Virginia's workforce. Plans are to renew emphasis on workplace education within WIN this year.

Barriers to Workplace Education

- The primary barrier is a lack of professional and prepared individuals in the work-based learning field. Many individuals involved with workplace education programs are not familiar with workplace needs.
- There is also a lack of flexibility with the National Reporting System. It does not recognize the value of short-term projects.
- Often those in the workplace do not have a clear understanding of what is needed to meet an objective and how workplace education can help.

Location of programs

- Approximately 90% of workplace education programs are offered on-site.

Responsibility for implementation at the local level

- Community colleges
- LEA's
- Employers (fewer)
- Learning Centers

Support Services

- Training
- Curriculum development
- Marketing
- Partnership building

One-Stop Connections

- Adult workplace education initiatives have limited connections to One-Stops.

Workplace Education Program Qualities

State	State Partners	Enrollment	State Staff	State Led Effort
Virginia	Virginia Employment Commission, Department of Health and Human Services, Virginia Literacy Foundation	5% at most, geographically concentrated	Contractual	Yes

This information was compiled from conversations with staff of the Virginia Workforce Improvement Network and from <http://cep.jmu.edu/workforce/aboutwin.htm>.