

Kentucky Work Ready Communities

Narrative 8: Supplemental Criteria; GED Attainment vs. Goals

Among the many factors that comprise a county worth the distinction of work ready status, it is integral that counties reach the GED attainment goals as set forth by the state. For that reason, Warren County has ensured that the GED set by Kentucky Adult Education—159 for the fiscal year of 2011-2012—will be met by the end of this education year May 2012. Rae Smith, GED chief examiner of Kentucky Adult Education, reported on November 18, 2011 that so far in 2011 Warren County has already awarded 152 GEDs, only seven short of the GED target. Warren County is in line to meet its goal for GED attainment. It has not remained complacent under these circumstances. Rather, it has continued to grow initiatives that increase GED attainment rates through programs such as the Even Start program and the Secondary Opportunity High School.

Even Start Family Literacy Program

The Even Start Family Literacy Program—led by the Bowling Green Independent School District—strives to improve educational opportunities of working parents by providing GED and language classes. Most notably, the program’s sustainable design builds on existing community resources to create a range of opportunities to meet the needs of each student enrolled.

Secondary Opportunity High School

These efforts are also supplemented by Bowling Green Independent School District’s Secondary Opportunity High School. Open to all Warren County residents, the Secondary Opportunity High School creates individually tailored programs to help non-traditional students graduate. By offering classes and guidance counseling to meet the needs of its students, this program graduates four to five students per year.

Day Treatment Center Alternative High School

Offered through Warren County Public Schools, the Day Treatment Center Alternative High School offers community based treatment, education, and GED attainment assistance for court adjudicated youth. These students may have experienced behavioral difficulties or may be transitioning back into the community from a more restrictive setting all with the help of Day Treatment’s dedicated staff.

Barren River WIB Efforts

Additionally, the Barren River WIB has implemented a joint referral partnership between the Barren River Workforce Investment Area and the Warren County Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE) (provider effective November 1, 2011) to further increase the Adult and Youth GED Attainment Level. The WIA and the KYAE staff will work together to ensure resources and services are available to eligible adults and youth in order to obtain the GED credential. The WIB has approved for eligible WIA participants to receive incentives for Educational Functional Level (EFL) increases and Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level (performance) gains. In terms of funding, the WIB has approved the utilization of WIA funding to pay for eligible WIA customer GED testing.

With such community-driven programs, the goal set by the Kentucky Adult Education will easily be exceeded for this year as it has been in the past, only providing further evidence for Warren County’s worthiness of the distinction as a Work Ready Community.