BASIC SKILLS DEFICIENT

Federal WIOA Regulation §681.290 provides states with the authority to develop policy on Part B of the Basic Skills Deficient definition. All assessments or determinations must be made within 60 days of the initial application. Formal assessment results within the last six months, provided by the participant or a partner agency, are acceptable to use in place of formal Objective Assessments.

(5) Basic Skills Deficient—The term “basic skills deficient” means, with respect to an individual

A. Who is a youth, that the individual has English reading, writing, or computing skills at or below the 8th grade level on a generally accepted standardized test; or

B. Who is a youth or adult, that the individual is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write or speak English, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual’s family, or in society.

Exemptions may include:

* Any individual who has obtained an Associate’s degree or higher
* Any individual who has obtained the GOLD NCRC or above within the last five years
* Individuals who have met with their IRT team and the recommendation is to waive the assessments based on the individual’s situation (Case notes must reflect who was in attendance of IRT and why the assessment is waived)

A basic skills assessment may be provided to determine eligibility for financial assistance for participants who do not meet “Governors Special Barriers” for financial eligibility.

In South Dakota, an ACT® WorkKeys® Curriculum™ Placement Quiz, WorkKeys Assessments, TABE™, Best Plus™, or Best Literacy™ assessment are utilized to determine Basic Skills Deficiency. A score of four or less on any of the WorkKeys Curriculum Placement Quiz, WorkKeys Assessments indicates Basic Skills Deficient. Best Plus or Best Literacy assessments should be only used for English Language Learners. For more information on assessments, see Assessments Policy 4.9 and the Assessment Guide (WIOA Resource 13).

If the individual is found to be Basic Skills Deficient, this should be identified in the Assessments Tab in the WIOA application.

Wagner-Peyser

A formal basic skills assessment is not required for all Wagner-Peyser participants as part of the Initial Assessment process but is highly encouraged and should be based on the needs of the individual.

COORDINATED REFERRAL

Individuals who are Basic Skills Deficient should be offered direct linkage to services through the AEL program as a Coordinated Referral service. It is the customer’s choice to take part in such services. If the participant takes part in AEL services, staff must be an active member of the Integrated Resource Team (IRT). Include IRT information in the Employment Plan as it relates to the barrier.

Participants who decline to work with AEL should be offered WorkKeys Curriculum remediation. Include information in the Employment Plan as it relates to the barrier.

WIOA Law §3
20 CFR §681.290