Strategic Partner Engagement, Planning, and Implementation: Realizing Your Plan and Partnerships

Key Requirements from Regulations and Guidance

The purpose of this handout is to highlight a sample of the many areas in which WIOA expects a high level of partnership engagement, joint planning and coordination.

Paraphrased Requirement (see Statute and Regulations for full text)	**Citation**
WIOA State Planning	
The Unified and Combined State Plans serve as 4-year action plans to develop, align, and integrate the State's systems and provide a platform to achieve the State's vision and strategic and operational goals. A Unified or Combined State Plan is intended to align, in strategic coordination, the six core programs required in the Unified State Plan and additional Combined State Plan partner programs that may be part of the Combined State Plan.	**§ 676.100(b)**
The Unified [and Combined] State Plan must include strategic and operational planning elements to facilitate the development of an aligned, coordinated, and comprehensive workforce development system. The State Plan must include: (1) Strategic planning elements that describe the State's strategic vision and goals for preparing an educated and skilled workforce… (2) Strategies for aligning the core programs and Combined State Plan partner programs as described in § 676.140(d), as well as other resources available to the State, to achieve the strategic vision and goals (3) Operational planning elements…that support the strategies for aligning the core programs and other resources available to the state to achieve the State's vision and goals…	**§ 676.105 and § 676.140**
The Unified [and Combined] State Plan must include a description of joint planning and coordination across core programs, required one-stop partner programs, and other programs and activities in the Unified [or Combined] State Plan.	**§ 676.105 and § 676.140**
Sample Excerpts from WIOA State Plan Requirements that Reflect Partnerships	**Required Elements for Submission of the Unified or Combined State Plan and Plan Modifications under WIOA (a.k.a. State Plan Information Collection Request)**
(III)(a)(2) Implementation of State Strategies: (A) Core Program Activities to Implement the State's Strategy- describe the activities the entities carrying out the respective core programs will fund to implement the State's strategies. Also describe how these activities will be aligned across the core programs and Combined State Plan partner programs included in the plan and among the entities	

administering the programs, including using co-enrollment and other strategies.

(B) Alignment with Activities outside the Plan- describe how the activities to implement the State's strategies will be aligned with programs and activities provided by required one-stop partners and other optional one-stop partners and activities provided under employment, training (including Registered Apprenticeships), education (including career and technical education), human services and other programs not covered by the plan, as appropriate, assuring coordination of, and avoiding duplication among these activities.

(C) Coordination, Alignment and Provision of Services to individuals- describe how the entities carrying out the respective core programs, Combined State Plan partner programs included in the plan, and required and optional one-stop partner programs will coordinate activities and resources to provide comprehensive, high-quality, customer-centered services, including supportive services to individuals.

(D) Coordination, Alignment and Provision of Services to Employers- describe how the entities carrying out the respective core programs, any Combined State Plan partner program included in this plan, required and optional one-stop partner programs will coordinate activities and resources to provide comprehensive, high-quality services to employers to meet their current and projected workforce needs and to achieve the goals of industry or sector partners in the state.

(b) State Operating Systems and Policies, which must include: (1) The State operating systems that support (A) coordinating the implementation of State strategies, such as the labor market information systems, data systems, communication systems, case-management systems, job banks; and (B) data-collection and reporting processes used for all programs and activities. (2) The State policies that will support the implementation of the State's strategies, such as co-enrollment policies and universal intake processes.

(4) Assessment and Evaluation of Programs and One-Stop Program Partners:
(A) Assessment of Core Programs- describe how the core programs will be assessed each year based on State performance accountability measures described in section 116(b) of WIOA, including the quality, effectiveness, and improvement of programs broken down by local area or provider.

(B) Assessment of One-Stop Program Partner Programs- describe how other one-stop delivery system partner program services and Combined State Plan partner programs included in the plan will be assessed each year.

(6) Program Data: (A) Data Alignment and Integration- [describe plans to] align and integrate available workforce and education data systems for the core programs, unemployment insurance programs, and education through postsecondary education, and, to the extent possible, the Combined State Plan partner programs included in the plan.
(i) management information systems for the core programs interoperable to maximize the efficient exchange of common data elements to support assessment and evaluation.
(ii) integrate data systems to facilitate streamlined intake and service delivery to

track participation across all programs included in the plan. (iii) how the State board will assist the governor in aligning technology and data systems across required one-stop partner programs (including design and implementation of common intake, data collection, etc.) and how such alignment will improve service delivery to individuals, including unemployed individuals. (iv) develop and produce the reports required under section 116, performance accountability system. (WIOA section 116(d)(2)).	
IV. COORDINATION WITH STATE PLAN PROGRAMS: the methods used for joint planning and coordination among the core programs, and with the required one-stop partner programs and other programs and activities included in the Unified or Combined State Plan.	

WIOA Regional and Local Planning	
If assigned to a planning region, local WDBs and chief elected officials must participate in a regional planning process that results in: the establishment of regional service strategies, development and implementation of sector initiatives for the planning region, coordination of supportive services, coordination of regional economic development services and providers…	**§ 679.510(a)**
The local workforce development plan must identify and describe the policies, procedures, and local activities that are carried out in the local area, *consistent with the State Plan*.	**§ 679.560(a)(1)**
An analysis of workforce development activities, including education and training, in the region…Taking into account analyses, a strategy to work with the entities that carry out the core programs and required partners to align resources available to the local area, to achieve the strategic vision and goals [of the local area].	**§ 679.560(a)**
A description of the programs in the workforce system in the local area and how the local WDB will support the strategy identified in the State Plan and work with entities carrying out core programs and other workforce programs.	**§ 679.560(b)(1)**
How the local WDB will work with entities carrying out the core programs to: expand access to services for eligible individuals; facilitate career pathways and co-enrollment; improve access to activities leading to recognized postsecondary credentials.	**§ 679.560(b)(2)**
The strategies and services that will be used to: facilitate engagement of employers in workforce development programs; to meet the needs of business; to better coordinate workforce development programs and economic development; to strengthen linkages between the one-stop delivery system and unemployment insurance programs.	**§ 679.560(b)(3)**
A description of the one-stop delivery system in the local area, including (among other requirements) the roles and resource contributions of the one-stop partners.	**§ 679.560(b)(5)**
A description of how the local WDB will coordinate workforce investment	**§ 679.560(b)(7-13)**

activities carried out in the local area: by statewide rapid response activities; the type and availability of youth activities; relevant secondary and postsecondary education programs; transportation and supportive services; Wagner-Peyser Act services; and other services provided by the one-stop delivery system; WIOA title I and with adult education and literacy activities under title II.	
How one-stop centers are implementing and transitioning to an integrated, technology-enabled intake and case management information system for WIOA programs and by one-stop partners.	**§ 679.560(b)(20)**