



Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District

Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board Policy

Policy Name	Youth Incentives
Effective Date	June 7, 2017
Date Approved by the Board	June 7, 2017
	September 5, 2018 revised
	December 5, 2018 revised
	September 4, 2019 revised
	December 4, 2019 revised

Incentives will be paid for eligible youth programs based on the availability of funds. 20 CRF 681.640 states that "incentive payments to youth participants are permitted for recognition and achievement directly tied to training activities and work experiences. Payment will be in the form of a gift card if \$50.00 and under. Payment will be in the form of a check if amount is over \$50.00.

In School Youth Program:

- 1) Showing Improvement in Grades
 - a) Studies show that ninety-five percent of students who receive Bs or better and have a GPA of 3.0 in the 9th grade go on to graduate from high school. Since completing high school is a priority of the youth program it is important to recognize students for this achievement. An incentive will be paid to youth who show improvement in grades from the first nine weeks each semester to the second nine weeks. In order to receive this incentive, the participant must raise their grade point by .50. An incentive of \$25.00 each nine weeks will be awarded for grade improvement.
OR
 - b) Participants with a grade point average of 3.5 at semester will receive an incentive of \$25.00.

Acceptable Documentation:

- Copy of school records such as report card

- 2) Graduating High School

It is the overall arching goal of the ISY program to help individuals become successful wage earners. Labor Bureau Statistics show that individuals with a high school diploma have the potential to earn \$30,627 annual compared to high school dropouts at \$20,241. Rewarding individuals for this very important academic achievement is important. An incentive will be awarded to ISY participants who graduate high school.

Participants who graduate high school will receive \$250.00.

Acceptable Documentation:

- Verification from the school that student has graduated



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Out of School Youth Program:

Incentives for participants enrolled in a GED program:

- 1) Increasing one (1) educational functioning level (EFL); most students enter the program at a Level 3 there is the opportunity for them to increase their level 3 times in 3 different subjects: Offer \$25 per level per subject – for a total of \$225 possible.
- 2) Scoring at least 145 on a GED Ready test (Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, Language Arts) – this test is administered to determine if the student is ready to take the GED test. Offer \$50 per test for a total of \$200.
- 3) Passage of another test – such as Civics. Any student (age 16-18) that hasn't passed a Civics class in school before dropping out are required to take a test at entrance. If the student doesn't pass the Civics test they will have to take a 4 week class and then retest. Offer \$75 for the completion of this class upon passing the test.
- 4) Completion of Financial Literacy, Ready to Work, WAGE or other comparable program. Offer \$100 for the completion with documentation from the GED center.
- 5) Participants who receive their GED while enrolled in the program or within first quarter after they exit the program will receive an incentive of \$250.00 for their achievement.

Acceptable Documentation:

- Copy of GED records
- Test scores showing increase in educational functioning levels.
- Copies of program certificate
- GED test results
- Documentation from training provider.



John Dyess, NW WDB Chair

12-4-19

Date