

*Monthly tips and resources featured in **What's Next?** are created for young adults, their families, and supporters who are exploring options for life after high school in Indiana.*

Still working on that diploma? WorkOne to the rescue!

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Indiana's WorkOne offices provide services to people who are unemployed and to those who are looking for a job. But did you know that WorkOne also has a number of programs and services that help *prepare* people for jobs or careers?

Several of those programs are helping thousands of Indiana students obtain a diploma. In this issue we'll explore a few of those programs.

Pathways for students still in school and for those who've already exited

Indiana's Department of Workforce Development and its WorkOne offices around the state understand that a diploma can open doors to employment. Even if you've struggled in school in the past, you may want to consider the following programs.

Jobs for America's Graduates

Through its Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program, WorkOne is helping students, ages 16-24, stay the course to graduation. JAG students are mentored during the program and even receive follow-up counseling to assist with their

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continued success for one year after graduation.

You can participate in JAG if you're still in school but are struggling or even if you've dropped out or have already left school. JAG's out-of-school youth program also helps with employment placement.

A total of 30,000 in-school students use the JAG program, which has a 96 percent graduation rate. Over 4,000 out-of-school students use JAG Indiana every year, and the program has successfully placed more than 80 percent of those students in jobs. JAG Indiana is free and is available in 130 locations around the state.

Indiana Adult Education

If you're age 18 or older and you've either dropped out of school or left school with a Certificate of Completion, you may want to consider earning a High School Equivalency diploma (formerly known as the GED) or an occupational certificate. Having a diploma or a certificate for a specific type of work could help you get a better job. The High School Equivalency diploma might even help you take college courses. If you've already left high school, what are your options now?

First of all, if you're not yet 22, you can always go back to your local school to work toward your diploma. But if that's not something you want to do, consider talking to your local WorkOne office about the free **Indiana Adult Education** program. Indiana Adult Education courses in reading, math, and writing are available online through Indiana Online Only or at one of [156 locations throughout the state](#).

The good news:

- More than 80 percent of individuals who have graduated from the program have found work.
- Most program grads who were working got a raise or a better job.
- And two-thirds of Indiana Adult Education participants enrolled in postsecondary education after graduating from the program.

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Need some help with English?

For students who are non-English speakers or who face barriers to work due to limited English, WorkOne also offers a program for **English Language Learners**. Students in this program can improve their reading, writing, math, and English skills. As with Indiana Adult Education, courses are offered in person or online.

The English Language Learners program is free and also includes instruction in American government and history, individual freedoms, and responsibilities of citizenship.

Talk to your local WorkOne office if you're interested in enrolling in English Language Learners.

Resources

- [Indiana Adult Education Infographic](#)
- [Indiana WorkOne Regional Map of Offices by County](#) —There are 70 WorkOne offices in Indiana. Use this map to find the contact information for the office closest to you.

What's Next? is a project of the Center on Community Living and Careers and the Indiana Department of Education.

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