
Guidance Regarding CDL Training for Applicants Who Have a Felony Conviction

Applicants who have a felony conviction are approved for CDL training only under special circumstances; they are not refused acceptance into WIOA for training; however, they should be aware of this guidance of the Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board to restrict WIOA-funded training as CDL drivers for interested applicants who have a felony conviction.

There are opportunities and resources in the Career Resource Center for applicants to take Career Scope assessment, explore the labor market and learn careers which fit their interests, aptitudes and personal circumstances.

Under the Civil Rights Act, an applicant is protected from discrimination on the basis of Race, Color, Religion, Sex, National Origin, Age, Disability, Political Affiliation or Belief. While an applicant does not meet the policy requirements of ARWDB for CDL training, they are not being discriminated against because of their background.

Most truck driver training schools will not accept a student funded by WIOA with a felony. Some schools will accept a student with a felony conviction more than 10 years old if it does not involve a gun, sex, theft or drug-related incident. The Inter-State Commerce Commission oversees trucking companies which hire drivers just out of training; these drivers must be able to travel all lower 48 states and go into Canada. Canada will not allow a driver with a felony conviction to cross the border, and trucking companies seem to find that they are unable to dispatch around that requirement; therefore, they generally do not hire drivers with felony convictions. Consideration will be given to training a customer with a felony conviction who provides proof of a bona fide job offer upon completion of training. Requirements for the letter appear on the following page.

Applicants are welcome to come to the Career Resource Center to take advantage of the computer lab, labor market information and career assessments for choosing an alternative career. An Internet search may provide information about companies which will provide training with a job at no cost. Alternative career options are welding, maintenance, restaurant chef/cook, landscaping and automotive repair; having ToppStep bonding will be an asset for securing employment.

The general services of the Career Resource Center are available to applicants who have a felony conviction.

Resources:

1. The Educational Opportunity Center – Georgia State University 404-413-1713
2. ToppStep – Georgia Department of Labor Bonding Program 404-232-3540
3. www.hirenetwork.org

Company paid CDL training at PAM Transport (www.pamtransport.com) and C R England (www.crengland.com)

Requirements for Atlanta Regional Workforce Board Bona Fide Job Offer Letter
For CDL Training

To Be Completed on Employer Letterhead

Prospective Employee Name:

Name of Employer:

Position Title:

Salary Range:

Statement: (Employer Name) agrees to hire (prospective employee name) upon successful completion of (name of program) with certification.

Official Signature and Date