

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3533

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY,
Washington, D.C., July 26, 1967.

HON. CARL PERKINS,
Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your inquiry concerning the conditions under which Job Corps will admit youths who are still in school and youths who are working at the time of application.

SCHOOL STATUS

Job Corps' school status requirement states that "an applicant must have dropped out of school and have been out at least three months at the time of application." Normally speaking, therefore, youths who are still in school or have been out less than three months are not eligible for the program.

Under exceptional circumstances the screener may request a waiver of this requirement. The waiver request must be accompanied by a statement from a responsible school official, e.g., principal or guidance counselor, that the applicant can no longer benefit from conventional schooling.

The regional Job Corps office determines whether the request for the waiver is to be granted. The following are examples of circumstances which are considered acceptable:

1. The youth lives in a State where school attendance is required beyond age 16 and the youth is complying with the law by participating in a special educational program not leading to a high school diploma or that is merely custodial in nature.
2. The youth's school attendance is so irregular as to negate the possibility of normal progress.
3. The youth left school and can't or won't return.
4. The youth attends school in an institution for dependent or neglected children.
5. The youth is well overage for grade and cannot adjust socially.

The National Education Association is in full support of our criteria to increase the opportunities for potential and actual dropouts to continue their education and training through the Job Corps program. Further, it is disposed toward an "open door opportunity" for youths trained by Job Corps who wish to reenter the public school system in order to continue their education.

Less than 10% of the males and 13% of the females enrolled in the Job Corps in 1967 were enrolled directly from school. In the same year, 4,792 Corps-members returned to school after Job Corps training.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The employability requirement is that "the applicant must need training in order to get and hold a decent job." Three factors are used in determining eligibility under this criterion. Each factor is given a numerical score which, when totalled, may not exceed 7 for the youth to be considered eligible.

1. Job skill level:	Score
Unskilled	0
Semiskilled	4
Skilled	7
2. Labor force status:	
Unemployed	0
Employed parttime or seasonally	2
Employed fulltime	5
3. If not working full time, number of weeks since employed full time:	
Never worked full time	0
53 weeks and over	0
27-52 weeks	1
15-26 weeks	3
1-14 weeks	5

A youth who is working full-time is eligible if the job he is doing, or the job he is qualified for, is classified as "unskilled."

A youth who is working part-time or seasonally is eligible if: