

Kentucky Essential Skills Certificate(KESC)



Career Readiness
Courseware &
Credentials

Statewide Partnership

- Kentucky Adult Education
- Kentucky Career Centers
- Kentucky Department of Workforce Investment
- Kentucky Department of Corrections
- Kentucky Community and Technical College System



Implementation

Kentucky Adult Education and Kentucky Career Centers (Department of Workforce Investment) adopted the WIN Learning Essential Soft Skills Assessment to provide the Kentucky Essential Skills Certificate (KESC) — the first rung in a career ladder of stackable credentials. This Kentucky certificate, signed by the governor, is being offered statewide to enhance workforce readiness and essential soft skills that employers request.

Kentucky learners and job seekers are better equipped with essential employability skills such as decision-making, problem-solving, and communicating effectively by earning the Kentucky Essential Skills Certificate.

A screenshot of a video player interface for "softskills powered by win". The video title is "What is The Purpose of a Team?". The video content shows two construction workers in hard hats looking at a set of blueprints. The text on the screen reads: "The purpose of a team is to work toward goals identified by the group. As a member of a team, you help set your team's goals and then you help your team to reach those goals by establishing timelines and assigning responsibilities to each of its members." The player includes a progress bar, a play/pause button, and navigation buttons for "Replay", "Audio", "Previous", and "Next". At the bottom, it says "Promoting Teamwork and Collaboration" and "Benefits and Challenges of Teamwork".

WIN Learning Solution

The WIN Learning Essential Soft Skills Assessment was developed based on the national Equipped for the Future (EFF) applied learning standards and the U.S. Department of Labor's work on SCANS and O*NET®. The assessment questions present situations that the learner might encounter at work and possible actions that could be used to deal with the situation. This requires the learner to select the best and worst option for that scenario.

To continue to strengthen its workforce, Kentucky sought a valid and reliable proctored assessment with a focus on the essential soft skills that play a vital role in workplace success and ensure a learner not only get a job, but stay gainfully employed. Employers benefit from having employees earn a soft skills credential as it assists in reducing turnover, improving productivity, and maximizing on-the-job training.

As reported in the Kentucky's Chamber of Commerce publication, Kentucky's Workforce Challenges: The Employer's Perspective, one of the greatest challenges facing employers is "the need for improved employability skills, or soft skills, such as attendance, communication and teamwork, among job seekers." The Kentucky Essential Skills Certificate (KESC) targets this challenge and seeks to further empower job seekers across the state.

Kentucky statewide access to the customized Essential Soft Skills Courseware, assessment, and credential is available to the 24,000 students enrolled in the Kentucky Adult Education program and more than 125,000 learners and job seekers are served by the Kentucky Career Centers on a yearly basis.