

They're Young. They're Connected.

Now let's make sure they're ready.



Challenges

Orange County Youth are also facing a number of significant challenges impacting their workforce readiness. These challenges must be addressed today:

- Despite the above strengths, the majority of 11th graders show only "basic," "below basic" and "far below basic" achievement in math and science.*
- Orange County's math and science achievement scores seem to be worsening.*
- Only 18.6% of Hispanic graduates — who make up 30% of total enrollment — were academically prepared for college.*
- Orange County performs below the state average in preparing Hispanic and African-American students for college.*
- By 2025, Hispanics are projected to comprise the majority of the County's population, and our workforce.* We share a responsibility to prepare them for success.

Strengths

Orange County Youth outperform state averages in several academic areas necessary to succeed in a technology-driven 21st-century workforce:

- Approximately 20% of 11th graders showed "advanced" or "proficient" achievement in Algebra.*
- 33% of 11th graders showed "advanced" or "proficient" achievement in Chemistry.*
- Orange County schools led the nation in 2005 SAT scores.**
- Orange County led the state in reaching 2006 Academic Performance Index targets.**
- Orange County leads the state in preparing White, Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian and Filipino students for college.*

* Source: Orange County Workforce Reports 2006 and 2025

** Source: State of Education Presentation, Orange County Department of Education, February 20, 2007

What will it take to
**prepare tomorrow's
workforce?**

What is a Workforce Investment Board and a Youth Council?

A local **Workforce Investment Board (WIB)** is established to set policy for the workforce investment system within each local area. The WIB is responsible for the coordination of workforce development activities and programs designed in response to the needs of the local economy. A local WIB is led by private industry. Workforce Investment Boards are a partnership of business leaders, local education representatives and government decision makers who work together to respond to the needs of the business community and job seekers through an integrated workforce preparation system. The goals of the system are to improve the quality, career mobility and skills of the local workforce, enhance productivity and competitiveness of local business and industry.

A **Youth Council** is a committee of the local Workforce Investment Board whose duties include developing portions of the local plan relating to eligible youth (subject to the approval of the local board); recommending eligible providers of youth activities to be awarded grants or contracts on a competitive basis; conducting oversight with respect to the eligible providers of youth activities in the local area; and coordinating youth activities. The membership of each Youth Council includes members of the local board with special interest or expertise in youth policy; representatives of local youth service agencies; parents of eligible youth; and individuals, including former participants, and representatives of organizations that have experience relating to youth activities.

*The **Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program** implements a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary youth-serving system within a framework that aligns academic excellence, career preparation and youth development, support and leadership. It helps young people start on the path toward self-sufficiency by helping them attain the necessary education and training to connect successfully to the labor market. The WIA Youth Program focuses on helping young people succeed by:*

- Providing them with access to tutoring and study skills training to improve their high school grades, and dropout prevention strategies and alternative secondary school services to assist them in completing secondary school
- Preparing them to succeed in the world of work, providing paid and unpaid work experiences including job shadowing and internships, and occupational skills training
- Supporting them by helping to meet their overall needs with guidance and counseling, assistance with transportation, child care, etc.
- Offering services that develop their citizenship and leadership skills, including community service and peer activities that encourage responsibility and other positive behaviors during non-school hours

In Orange County, each of the three local boards have an established Youth Council—contact information is below:

Santa Ana Workforce Investment Board/Youth Council

www.santaanawib.com
Frances Cadenas, 714-565-2644
fcadenas@ci.santa-ana.ca.us



Orange County Workforce Investment Board/Youth Council

www.ocwib.org
Mercedes Julian, 714-567-7522
Mercedes.Julian@hcs.ocgov.com



Orange County
Workforce Investment Board
Linking Business & People

Anaheim Workforce Investment Board/Youth Council

www.anaheimwib.com
Marco Lucero, 714-765-4343
mlucero@anaheim.net

