## ACT<sup>®</sup> WorkKeys<sup>®</sup> BUILD A BETTER WORKFORCE





## HOW CAN YOU ENSURE YOUR LEARNERS ARE "CAREER READY"?

While there is no single answer to that question, almost every answer includes a measure of core skills, attitudes, and behaviors. Today, students need more than a diploma to achieve workforce success. Employers are looking for the foundational skills needed on the job.

Tools like assessments, curriculum, and job profiles can be used to determine, build, and measure workplace skills that can affect job performance. **ACT® WorkKeys®** can help:

- Educators from high school through college ensure their students are ready for career success.
- **Individuals**, at all stages of their career, build and measure their skills to advance their career goals.



North Carolina chose to add a requirement that all high school seniors enrolled in CTE programs take the three **WorkKeys Assessments** required for the **ACT**<sup>®</sup> **WorkKeys<sup>®</sup> National Career Readiness Certificate<sup>®</sup> (NCRC<sup>®</sup>).** This gave students a credential to document they have the foundational workplace skills employers value.



of graduates were employed or enrolled in a postsecondary education option upon graduation.

### ACT<sup>®</sup> WorkKeys<sup>®</sup> Assessments

North Carolina uses **WorkKeys Assessments** to get career and technical education (CTE) students "future ready."

"We want to be sure we aren't just graduating students. We want to be sure that when they leave us, they are college and career ready."

– Tammy Howard

Director of Accountability Services, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction





### Higher NCRC scores lead to higher wages<sup>1</sup>

There is a positive relationship between higher NCRC and WorkKeys skill levels, and short- and long-term wages.

Adults who earned a Silver or Gold/Platinum NCRC increased their income within two years.

### NCRC<sup>®</sup> Examinee Wages by NCRC Level<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>The study sought to estimate economic outcomes for a representative sample of 50,000 WorkKeys NCRC-tested individuals using employer-sourced Equifax data.

<sup>2</sup>Equifax income calculations include the actual income reported by employers for every year of employment (divided by days of employment if the employee did not work the full year). Income rates are annualized and adjusted to 2016 dollars. Individuals were not included who worked less than 28 hours a week or who were employed less than 30 days a year.

# WORKKEYS PRODUCTS and SERVICES





**WorkKeys Assessments** are developed to solve actual workplace problems and don't simply give an indication of reading and writing competency. They measure a range of hard and soft skills relevant to any occupation, at any level, and across industries. This provides learners with a better understanding of their skills and where they can improve.



Individuals who have earned a **WorkKeys NCRC** have demonstrated they have the core foundational skills to be successful in any job across industries. Higher NCRC levels are associated with higher wages and can help individuals stand out from other candidates when searching for jobs.

#### ACT<sup>®</sup> WorkKeys<sup>®</sup> Curriculum

WorkKeys Curriculum helps people build the essential career-relevant skills needed for learning, personal development, and effective job performance. The courses are available on a mobile-based platform and address individual learning styles so learners can easily build the skills and levels employers are looking for.



ACT WorkKeys Job Profiles bring the specifics of a job into focus. Employers use job profiles to link job tasks to WorkKeys Assessments, pinpointing benchmarks for hiring, recruiting, advancement, and training. By using the data from over 21,000 profiled jobs, you can better prepare learners for the right jobs.

To see how ACT WorkKeys can help your students achieve career success, go to <u>act.org/workkeysforeducators</u>

