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# Promising Practice Fact Sheet – Workforce Development

## THE REGIONAL INDUSTRY SKILLS EDUCATION (RISE) Wisconsin

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### Program

**Description:** Helps low-income adults secure good careers in career pathways and provides a skilled workforce for employers by helping adults earn postsecondary credentials related to high-demand jobs; patterned after Washington State's I-BEST program.

**Target Population:** Low skilled, TANF and non-TANF adults

**Goal:** To implement I-BEST and other coordinated and integrated models to move students further and faster to Tipping Point level skills and knowledge.

**Cost:** Ranges as they are still in experimental mode. For example, one school cut team teaching overlap to 25% and got unsatisfactory results. They will increase to 100%. Funding is from innovation grants. Tuition for TANF recipients is paid through vouchers. ABE is free in WI but the students have to pay vocational tuition and are not financial aid eligible until they have at least 6 college level credits. Sometimes employers help pay costs for incumbent workers.

**Evidence:** In early implementation.  
Overview of program available at  
[http://www.wtcsystem.edu/initiatives/rise/pdf/what\\_is\\_rise.pdf](http://www.wtcsystem.edu/initiatives/rise/pdf/what_is_rise.pdf)

### Services Overview:

RISE is a joint initiative of the [Wisconsin Technical College System](#) and the [Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development](#), and funded in part through a ["Shifting Gears"](#) grant from the [Joyce Foundation](#).

- Draws on local, state and national expertise to make "career pathways" a central part of Wisconsin's education and job training systems.
- Engages the business community at both the state and regional levels to address the skill needs of major industry sectors.
- Project is a group of CTC- based programs that coordinate and integrate basic and occupational skills instruction, based on career pathways.
- WA State began mentoring WI for implementing I-BEST and WI has developed several additional approaches.
- Coordinated programs include math for science and chemistry, reading for technology and college prep. I-BEST-like programs include hospitality, AA track core programs (with ESL meeting foreign language requirement), and ladder pathways for business, culinary, welding, healthcare, automotive, etc.
- Will be turning all nursing programs into I-BEST at some colleges.
- Also got agreement that passage of certain I-BEST programs equal to HS diploma (not tracking to GED).
- Programs include bridge and integrated formats
- Help students achieve occupational certification and college credit.
- Working to get ABE and certificate completion to equate to high school diploma (in negotiation).
- Serves mid-level ABE and continuing students

**Eligibility:** Low skilled, TANF and non-TANF – mid-level ABE and continuing students

**Findings:**

- Numbers are small so far but retention and completions are good.
- Further outcomes data about 1 year off.

**Implications for Policymakers and Program Developers to Consider:**

- Many states are in the process of implementing I-BEST as a best practice for low skilled adults, TANF and others.
- SBCTC is currently mentoring over 20 states.

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