

Department of Workforce Development
Employment and Training Division
Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards
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Tony Evers, Governor
Amy Pechacek, Secretary
Michele Carter, Division Administrator

Construction Craft Laborers State Apprenticeship Advisory Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, October 1, 2025
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Attend Virtually: [Join the meeting now](#)

Teams Meeting ID: 255 055 093 160 | Passcode: EX78tt2j

Attend via Phone: #608-571-2209 | Conference ID: 838 374 316#

Note: Public comment will occur only when noted, after committee discussion and prior to committee action.

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Record Attendees
3. Review Roster
4. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
5. Specific Committee Items for Discussion (*Public Comment*)
 - a. Follow-Up from Spring 2025 Meeting: High School Diploma Requirement-Updated in State Standards
6. Director's Call Discussion
7. WTCS Report
8. Other Discussion Items
9. Review Program Participants
10. Set Next Meeting Date/Time
11. Adjourn

State Apprenticeship Advisory Committee Construction Craft Laborers

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

In-Person and/or Virtual: Virtual

Check if Present	Members	Organization/Employer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tim Peterson	James Peterson & Sons
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anthony Neira	Laborers Local 113 Milwaukee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Damien Hoernke	McCabe Construction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Schmidt	Michels Corp
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerald Schomaker	Construction Craft Laborers Local 330
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Foye	Laborers Local 464
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kent Miller	Wisconsin Laborers District Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jon Nehls	Mortenson Co
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tony Zignego	Zignego Company
<input type="checkbox"/>	Matt Marcellis	Allied Construction Employer Assoc
	Clark Jensen	Laborers Local 140 La Crosse
	Alan Bradford	
Check if Present	Consultants & Guests	Organization/Employer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Polk	Bureau of Apprenticeship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Liz Pusch	Bureau of Apprenticeship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darell Ferguson	Bureau of Apprenticeship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Knight	Bureau of Apprenticeship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leslie Pelikan	Bureau of Apprenticeship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ray Wiatt	LIUNA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saul Castillo	LIUNA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben Stahlecker	Bureau of Apprenticeship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Uffelman	Bureau of Apprenticeship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tim Budda	Bureau of Apprenticeship
<input type="checkbox"/>		
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Draft Meeting Minutes

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Public comment will occur only when noted, after committee discussion and prior to committee action.

1. Call Meeting to Order

- Note Who: Liz Pusch
- Note Time: 10:03AM

2. Introductions and Record Attendees (in table above)

3. Review Roster

- Note any Changes: Members with expired term dates- Damien Hoernke (12/31/2024), Matt Marcellis (12/31/2024), Tony Zignego (11/09/2024), Kent Miller (12/31/2024), Jim Foye (10/12/2024), Clark Jensen (12/31/2024), Anthony Neira (12/31/2024). Allen Bradford also needs to be added to the committee roster. BAS is reviewing all state committee rosters to ensure membership is up to date. BAS will reach out to those with expired terms for re-nomination or replacement nomination letters.

4. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

- Note any Changes: None
- Motioned to Approve made by: Anthony Neira
- Seconded Motion made by: Gerald Schomaker

5. Specific Committee Items for Discussion

a. High School Diploma Requirement Follow-Up

- BAS made the request for the laborers training center to track applicants who enter the apprenticeship program without a high school diploma. Saul Castillo reported that they currently have 10 apprentices without a diploma or GED. Those apprentices have been informed on the process and provided the resources on how to obtain their GED. Saul reported that most of the apprentices without their diploma are interested in pursuing their diploma after they complete their training.
- Anthony Neira reported that he attended a career fair where many of the attendees asked about the diploma requirement. He's worried that if a diploma was made a requirement that it would discourage and prevent potential applicants.
- Liz Pusch asked the committee if they currently have issues with older individuals passing their Accuplacer test. The committee stated they do have some issues with older individuals passing the Accuplacer test due to those individuals being out of a formal school setting for years. The applicants who have issues with the Accuplacer test are often referred to WRTP for additional help.
- Director Polk then asked the committee if the same people who struggle with their Accuplacer, have issues with their related instruction classes. Saul Castillo responded that sometimes that occurs, but not always. He stated that success in their program often comes down to apprentices seeking additional help if needed. The ones who seek help often pass but the ones who do not seek additional help, have difficulties passing their classes.
- Director Polk noted that this committee is the only committee in the state who does not have a high school diploma requirement and recommends if they decide to proceed without a high school diploma requirement, that they continue to keep the Accuplacer test as an entry requirement. David also recommends the state committee adds language to the state standards and then this language would be updated to local standards.

MOTION-A motion was made to add the following language to the Additional Requirements section of the Standards:

"Local committees that do not require applicants that are at least 18 years of age to have a high school diploma or equivalent must include information on optional resources available to attain this. Information on these resources must be included in the policies and procedures and shared with the apprentice."

Motion Made: Damien Hoernke

Second: Dawn Schmidt

Motion Passed.

b. Wage Repayment Agreements

- Liz Pusch provided an overview of recent concerns with sponsors and employers requiring apprentices to sign wage repayment agreements that could affect them in the instance of leaving employment with their assigned employer either within the course of their apprenticeship or after completion. Liz shared a memo that was issued in Feb 2024 outlining the statutory requirement of paid related instruction and the prohibition of requiring the repayment of contract-required PRI. The Advisory Council discussed this item at the February 2025 meeting and subsequently approved language for addition to the WI Apprenticeship Manual to clarify this. Notification will be provided when the Manual update is completed. Sponsors or employers can reach out to BAS for assistance in complying with this requirement, if needed.

6. Questions from the Director's Call

- Note Questions/Comments: The Director's Call recording is available on the State Committee website. Committee had no follow-up questions from the call.

7. Other

- Note Questions/Comments: None

8. Review program participants

- Note Questions/Comments: None

9. Set Next Meeting Date/Time

- Note Next Meeting: October 1st, 10:00AM-12:00PM. The meeting will be held virtually

10. Adjourn

- Note Time: 10:37AM
- Motion to Adjourn made by: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
- Motion Seconded by: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)



This summary counts employers and apprentices, between 8/14/2024 and 8/14/2025 with contract status as Active & Unassigned in occupation(s) associated with this committee.

Report is based on apprentice contracts where:

- Contract sector is 'Construction'.
- Contract occupation code matches a occupation code assigned to committee.
- Contract sponsor is the employer.

Note: Employers active in more than one occupation or committee can cause Column #3 totals at the Committee or State level to deviate from the summed total of the individual occupation or committee rows.

Occupation	Apprentices									Employers				
	Total	Minority		Females		Union		Non-Union		Total	Union		Non-Union	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		#	%	#	%
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	5a	6	6a	7	8	8a	9	9a
Report Total	769	272	35.4	57	7.4	769	100.0	0	0	166	166	100.0	0	0
Construction Craft Laborer (47-2061.00)	769	272	35.4	57	7.4	769	100.0	0	0	166	166	100.0	0	0



Historical Report by Year

Report Period: 2025* and Previous -10 Years

*Current year is YTD data as of Run Date: 08/14/2025		
Run Date: 08/14/2025		
State Construction Craft Laborer Comm		
Sponsored Trade Group(s): Construction		
Year	Active Apprentices	Active Employers
2015	261	109
2016	293	111
2017	324	121
2018	338	131
2019	361	120
2020	361	138
2021	331	127
2022	311	120
2023	395	131
2024	422	145
2025	482	140

