

# Paths Open Wide

How fair access to learning supports people and communities

**CE.14.g** “describing the importance of equal opportunities for access to education and training; and”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each barrier to education or training, circle each support that can reduce a barrier, and number two results of fair access.

### Learning Opens Choices

- ① Education and training help people build knowledge and skills for work and life. A student who can take algebra, computer classes, or career courses may qualify for more paths after high school. An adult who can attend a welding program or earn a health care certificate may move into a different job. Equal opportunity means that people have a fair chance to reach these learning options. It does not promise that every person will choose the same path or earn the same result.
- ② Opportunities are not equal when barriers block some learners. A course fee can prevent a family from signing up. A training center far from bus routes can be difficult to reach. A student who needs disability supports, translated information, or a schedule that fits work may be left out if those supports are missing. Scholarships, reliable transportation, accessible buildings and materials, flexible class times, and clear information can reduce barriers. These supports give people a real chance to prepare for goals they choose.
- ③ When more people can learn, businesses and communities gain a wider group of prepared workers. A local hospital, for example, needs trained nurses, technicians, and office workers. If qualified residents could not access the needed programs, jobs might remain unfilled while people who want work miss chances to qualify. Equal access also helps families make economic decisions. People can compare careers, develop skills, and seek jobs that fit their interests and needs. Fair access strengthens individual choices and helps a community respond to changing work.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How can a course fee limit a person's opportunity for education or training?

---

---

**2** Name two supports from the passage that can reduce barriers to learning.

---

---

**3** Why is equal access to education and training important for a local hospital and its community?

---

---

**4** Does equal opportunity mean that all people must choose the same path or earn the same result? Explain.

---

---

**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Imagine that a community center plans an evening coding workshop. In four or five sentences, describe two barriers that could keep people from joining, propose two supports, and explain why fair access matters to the community.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each barrier to education or training, circle each support that can reduce a barrier, and number two results of fair access. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How can a course fee limit a person's opportunity for education or training?                            | <b>A course fee can prevent a family or person from signing up for a course or program.</b>                                                                  |
| 2 | Name two supports from the passage that can reduce barriers to learning.                                | <b>Accept any two: scholarships, reliable transportation, accessible buildings and materials, flexible class times, or clear information.</b>                |
| 3 | Why is equal access to education and training important for a local hospital and its community?         | <b>It helps create a wider group of trained workers, so hospital jobs are less likely to remain unfilled and residents have chances to qualify for work.</b> |
| 4 | Does equal opportunity mean that all people must choose the same path or earn the same result? Explain. | <b>No. It means people have a fair chance to reach learning options, but they may choose different paths and have different results.</b>                     |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

The evening coding workshop has a fee, and the building is far from the main bus stop. The center could offer fee waivers and provide a shuttle from the bus station. These supports would give more residents a fair chance to build technology skills. Fair access can help local employers find workers from a broader group.

Accept realistic barriers and supports that clearly connect to access to the workshop. The response should explain that fair access expands learning and work choices or helps meet community workforce needs.