

NCES DOVE UPDATE

DATA ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE NCES TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (TRP) ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



GREETINGS!

We anticipate our next Technical Review Panel (TRP) meeting to be held about a year from now—in April or May 2001. Besides being spring and a lovely time to visit our nation's Capitol, it will be good timing in terms of survey and publication schedules. In the meantime, we have increased our other forms of communication. We plan to use the VocEd Listserv and the TRP website to interact with you and hope that you will respond to these requests for input just as you would at a meeting.



LATEST NEWS

NCES Vocational Education Webpage. In addition to the TRP website (managed by MPR Associates), a vocational education webpage will appear on the NCES website by the end of April. (Via the listserv, we will send you the exact URL when it goes live.) Called "DOVE" (as in Data on Vocational Education), the page will provide a general overview of the NCES vocational education data collection system, with hyperlinks to relevant reports, information on data sources, and other information on vocational education from the Department of Education. We welcome your comments and suggestions about how to improve this site.

TRP Website. Construction on the TRP website should be complete by the end of April. The site will allow TRP members easy access to documents for review and provide a schedule that shows the timing of data collections, redesigns, and releases for federal data collections relevant to vocational education. Initial postings will include the minutes from past meetings, a draft planning document, and draft analysis plans for the projects *Vocational Course-Taking Trends: 1982-1998* and *Adult Education and Work*. We will send you a message via the listserv as soon as the website is ready for use.

Study on special population trends. The National Assessment of Vocational Education (NAVE) is supporting an NCES study to track trends in vocational education participation among special population students. MPR is developing an analysis plan for this study. To ensure that findings are available in time for the NAVE's use, this study will result in an EDTabs report. This type of report provides extensive tabular data summaries with limited text (i.e., lots of tables, few words).



ONGOING PROJECTS

Publications. The long-awaited *Vocational Education in the United States: Toward the Year 2000* (NCES 2000-029) has been released. In addition, *Occupational Programs and the Use of Skill Competencies at the Secondary and Postsecondary Levels, 1999* was released in February (NCES 2000-023). This report presents some of the findings from two fast-response surveys of secondary and postsecondary schools. It discusses the use of skill competency lists in occupational programs, the extent of industry involvement in developing or adopting the competency lists, and the credentialing of skill proficiencies. A second, more comprehensive report on these surveys is forthcoming, which will summarize the full set of questions asked on the surveys.

To order a copy of either publication, contact EdPubs (877.433.7827 or edpubs@inet.ed.gov). You can also view or download a copy from the NCES website by report number (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/>).

VOCED FAST FACTS

In 1999, about half (52%) of the postsecondary schools with occupational programs had at least some industry input into developing skill competencies for all the programs offered, 70% had this level of industry input for at least half of their programs, and 77% for at least one program.

SOURCE: *Occupational Programs and the Use of Skill Competencies at the Secondary and Postsecondary Levels, 1999* (NCES 2000-023), February 2000, p. 20.



NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

During the months of April and May, NCES offices will be moving to 1990 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20006. Lisa Hudson's new telephone number is 202.502.7358.

NAVE. The NAVE staff is collaborating with NCES to examine trends in vocational participation and coursetaking at the secondary level. A contract for the Study of Postsecondary Participation and Impacts will be awarded in April. In addition, an RFP for an evaluation of new Perkins funding and accountability provisions was released at the end of March, and proposals are due by May 2. Other studies examining vocational education implementation and/or outcomes are currently being designed.