

NCES DOVE UPDATE

DATA ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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



REVISING THE SECONDARY SCHOOL TAXONOMY

On August 9, 2004, MPR Associates convened a meeting of experts to recommend revisions to NCES's *Secondary School Taxonomy* (SST), which is used to classify high school courses for analysis. Meeting participants recommended that NCES use the 16 OVAE career clusters as the basis for revising the career/technical education (CTE) portion of the SST. Participants also recommended that NCES create two versions of the SST, one where each course has a single, primary location in the CTE curriculum, and one where courses may have multiple locations. The first version may be used to tally unduplicated counts of courses taken and credits earned, while the second may be used to identify students who have completed particular patterns of high school coursework.

Ongoing Revision Efforts

Based on these recommendations, DOVE staff—including NCES and MPR staff—have developed a draft revision of the CTE portion of the SST, which we will distribute for review during November 2004. We will ask reviewers to provide feedback on the overall proposed reorganization as well as on the proposed primary location of each course. After receiving comments on this first-stage review, we will prepare and distribute a second document in January concerning multiple course placements. Our intention is for the newly revised SST to be ready for future high school-level analyses beginning in Spring 2005.

Proposed Reorganization

The proposed framework for the CTE portion of the SST is similar to the OVAE career clusters and pathways, but not identical. Where problems of sample size typically occur in NCES surveys, we collapsed some categories. In addition, because the clusters can only include occupational courses at this stage, we changed the labeling of some categories to better reflect the included coursework. Finally, where it was relevant and reasonable to do so, we tried to make the SST taxonomy parallel to the new postsecondary taxonomy for CTE.

Following are the 10 proposed clusters and 18 sub-clusters or pathways:

1. Agriculture and Natural Resources
2. Design and Communications Technologies
 - Design
 - Communications Technologies
3. Business, Finance, and Marketing
 - Business Support
 - Business Management
 - Finance
 - Marketing/Sales

4. Public and Consumer Services
 - Child Care and Education
 - Public and Protective Services
 - Consumer Services
5. Health Care
6. Food Service and Hospitality
7. Construction and Transportation
 - Construction
 - Transportation
8. Production and Repair
 - Production
 - Repair
9. Computer Science
10. Engineering and Science Technologies

Again, we will distribute to those who attended the August 9 meeting the proposed reorganization and the primary placement of courses in each cluster for review during November 2004.

VOCED FAST FACT

In 2002, helping students with their academic achievement in high school was the most emphasized goal of high school guidance programs, with 48 percent of public high schools emphasizing this goal the most. This figure was up from 35 percent in 1984. Fewer schools in 2002 placed their greatest emphasis on helping students plan and prepare for postsecondary schooling (26 percent) or helping students with personal growth and development (17 percent). In this same year, schools were least likely to place the greatest guidance emphasis on helping students plan and prepare for their work roles after high school (8 percent).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (August 2003.) High School Guidance Counseling, NCES 2003-015. Washington, DC.



NEW DOVE TRP WEB SITE

The DOVE TRP web site has been updated and the address has been changed to <http://dovetrp.mprinc.com>. On this site you will find copies of all quarterly DOVE newsletters disseminated since January of 2000 as well as summaries of the 2004 annual DOVE TRP meeting and the August 9 SST Revision meeting.