

NCES DOVE UPDATE

DATA ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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



PROGRESS ON DOVE TRP PRIORITIES

At our August 2004 meeting, the DOVE TRP identified several action items and ongoing data-related concerns. This newsletter provides a brief update on several of these efforts.

Action Items: Proposed ELS Supplements

The two highest-ranked priorities identified by the TRP for filling gaps in data on CTE included conducting supplementary surveys of 1) ELS high school administrators and 2) administrators in area vocational/technical schools (AVTs) serving ELS schools, both of which would ask detailed questions about CTE-related practices. If these surveys were sent into the field by the end of academic year 2004–05, they could be linked to the ELS:2004 surveys and become part of this longitudinal database. Unfortunately, funding for these surveys did not materialize, and it is now too late to develop a Fast Response survey in time for implementation this academic year. Consequently, it appears the window for this opportunity has closed. However, a related effort is still possible, as described below.

Funding Assistance Needed for Key Surveys

The two next-highest TRP priorities for collecting new data on CTE included conducting 1) a survey of administrators in the universe of AVTs in the country and 2) a survey of state-level postsecondary policies related to CTE. If funding were obtained soon, one or both of these surveys could still be conducted during 2005. Please contact Lisa Hudson directly (202-502-7358) to discuss possibilities for sponsoring a survey.

Comprehensive List of AVTs

In preparation for conducting a survey of AVT administrators (either an independent survey or one linked to ELS), MPR Associates staff have worked with the State Directors of Career and Technical Education to develop a comprehensive list of the universe of AVTs in the country. Thirty-six states responded to our request for information. Of the 14 remaining states, only 7 are believed to have AVTs. Data from the CCD and IPEDS will be used for any non-responding states. MPR will finalize the AVT list in the next couple of weeks. Thanks to all who contributed to this effort.

High School CTE Clusters Formation

Subsequent to the August meeting at which we discussed revising the CTE portion of NCES' Secondary School Taxonomy (SST), MPR staff developed and distributed a draft new classification of CTE courses that reflects the 16 common career clusters, where possible. MPR has received comments from 10 out of 15 reviewers to date. Based on these comments, MPR will revise the

proposed classification and, by the end of March, distribute a second classification that allows for the multiple locations of CTE courses. Thanks, again, to all who contributed to this effort.

High School Course Coding and Flags

NCES, MPR, and other staff have been working to incorporate TRP requests for additional data on CTE into the ELS:2004 transcript data collection that is currently underway. Specifically, the school information form recently sent to ELS administrators included questions about dual-credit courses as well as the location of courses that high school students take. It is not yet known whether these school-level data can be linked to specific courses, but the feasibility of doing so is being examined. In addition, in order to provide information on course prerequisites, the feasibility of adding course flags is also being examined.

Vocational Education in the U.S. IV

MPR staff were able to incorporate many TRP suggestions into the analysis for the next *Vocational Education in the U.S.*, which will cover the time period 1990–2002. This edition of the report will provide the most comprehensive look to date by NCES at CTE at the secondary, postsecondary, and adult levels.

VOCED FAST FACT

In 1999, 18 percent of persons employed in trade occupations took a work-related course, in comparison with 25 percent of those employed in sales, service, and support occupations and 44 percent in professional and managerial occupations.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Participation Trends and Patterns in Adult Education: 1991 to 1999, NCES 2002-119, by Sean Creighton and Lisa Hudson. Washington, DC: 2002.



NEXT TRP MEETING, SUMMER 2005

Expect to hear from us in March, when we will contact DOVE TRP members to ask about your availability for the next annual summer meeting. Have your calendars ready!

Questions or comments about this publication? Contact Lisa Hudson at 202.502.7358 or Karen Levesque at 510.849.4942.

NCES DOVE website: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/dove>

DOVE TRP website: <http://dovetrp.mprinc.com>