

NCES DOVE UPDATE

DATA ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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



MAJOR CHANGES IN DOVE PROGRAM

As of this month, major changes go into effect in the DOVE program. These changes, detailed below, are the result of new priorities on the part of both the DOVE TRP and NCES management, as well as reduced funding in the new contract for conducting DOVE work. Therefore, in the next few years, the DOVE program will focus on producing data tables to be posted on the NCES DOVE website (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/dove>) rather than on producing written reports, with the exception of topical Issue Briefs.

DOVE on the Web

The Web data tables will be designed to answer the basic questions we have always asked about career and technical education (CTE) at the secondary, postsecondary, and adult education levels. Presenting these data on the Web rather than in printed reports coincides with NCES' new priorities, allows for the more timely release of CTE statistics, and makes these statistics more widely available.

Our goal is to produce an extensive set of tables that will answer the most commonly asked questions about CTE in the United States. To meet this goal, the DOVE website will need to be organized in a manner that facilitates question-based searches. The organizing framework for the system is still under development, but at the moment we envision separate sections for secondary, postsecondary, and adult education data, with each section containing information on

- The delivery system (the number and types of institutions or other providers offering CTE and the share of students they serve);
- Offerings (specific CTE program offerings as well as other supplemental services and programs);
- Student participation (number of students enrolled, types of courses/programs taken, credits earned);
- Characteristics of CTE participants (socio-demographic, disability, and achievement backgrounds of students participating in CTE);
- Faculty (number, socio-demographic characteristics, and education backgrounds of CTE instructors, supply and demand for CTE instructors);
- Instructional conditions and strategies (teaching loads, block scheduling, instructional costs/financing, incentives/selection for participation, etc.); and
- Student outcomes (high school progress, academic enrollments and achievement, postsecondary activities, labor market outcomes).

In 2006, we will analyze the following NCES datasets that have recently been released or will soon be released: The Education Longitudinal Study (ELS) 2004 high school transcript study, the 2003–04 Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), the 2003–04 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS), and the 2003–04 National Survey of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF). The DOVE

Web system will include estimates (percentages or averages), population counts, and associated standard errors. Variable definitions will also be included.

The system will include tables that provide both the most recent data from each DOVE survey and, for key statistics, trends over time. However, trend data will be limited at the outset, as we transition from the old taxonomies for classifying CTE coursetaking to the new taxonomies (see "Other Work in 2006" below). We also hope eventually to provide figures for key data to complement the tables.

Building the DOVE Web system will be a long-term, continuous process. Our work this year will focus on establishing the basic structure for the system and on providing basic statistics from the datasets mentioned above. The system will be updated periodically as new data become available and will be modified as needed over time in response to user feedback. When the system first goes online (later this year), we hope that you try it out and provide us with feedback.



OTHER WORK IN 2006

In addition to building the DOVE Web system, we will also continue work on the following projects:

- *Vocational Education in the United States* (4th edition): This compendium report will be entering the NCES review process this spring, with release anticipated for the summer or fall of 2006;
- BPS report on postsecondary students' persistence and outcomes: This report also will enter the NCES review process this spring, with a summer or fall release;
- Revision of the Secondary School Taxonomy (and the associated postsecondary taxonomy): Revision of these classification systems for CTE coursetaking and majors will be completed within the next 2–3 months. The new taxonomies will be used in the DOVE Web system.
- We also hope to initiate 1–2 issue briefs on CTE topics, for release in 2007.



ROLE OF THE DOVE TRP

Although we plan to continue working with the DOVE TRP, NCES does not have the funds to support a TRP meeting in 2006. We regret this situation, but hope that you will continue to follow our progress through these DOVE Updates, and that you may be willing to review materials on a voluntary basis during 2006. In particular, as mentioned above, we welcome your feedback on the DOVE Web system as it progresses; please notify us by email if you would like us to share planning documents with you. We will also let you know when the initial DOVE Web system goes online. Thank you!

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>