

States' Employability Standards in Career and Technical Education and Adult Education

Background

College and career readiness is a cornerstone of current efforts to reform our nation's education system and prepare students to transition to and complete postsecondary education without the need for remediation, and/or obtain an entry-level position along a career pathway. Key educational stakeholders, along with the employer community, are in general agreement that students must possess three types of skills—academic, employability, and technical—to assure that all students (youth and adults) are college and career ready. Among these skills, less explicit attention has been given to employability skills. As a result, there is neither a common set of employability standards nor consensus on whether or how to assess the related knowledge and skills.

Overview

States' Employability Standards in Career and Technical Education and Adult Education is designed to assist the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) address the need for a common list of employability skills, and the means by which to assess them. MPR Associates, Inc., through a contract with OVAE, will:

- 1) establish a technical working group that will include key adult and career technical education national associations, professional organizations, researchers, practitioners, and business/industry/labor representatives;
- 2) produce a consensus report, which identifies and describes the 21st century employability knowledge and skills required for youth and adults and that coordinates with the work the states are currently doing through National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEC); and,
- 3) develop a rubric or tool for the assessment of these employability knowledge and skills. The contract period is March 28, 2011, to September 28, 2012.

Project Milestones

- Produce a consensus report.
- Develop a tool for the assessment of employability skills.

Outcomes and Products

- Consensus report identifying and describing a set of common 21st century employability knowledge and skills, and a rubric/tool for the assessment of the employability knowledge and skills.

Contact: Nancy Brooks: Nancy.Brooks@ed.gov