

Scope of Study

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Connecticut Regional Vocational-Technical School System is operated by the Connecticut Department of Education. It is a statewide system with 17 schools, two satellite programs, and one Technical Education Center. It provides a full-time secondary school education to approximately 13,000 children, with graduates receiving a Connecticut high school diploma and a certificate in a specific occupation. It also provides full-time apprentice training or part-time retraining and skill upgrading programs to approximately 10,000 adults.

The system offers training in 39 occupational areas. These include auto repair, carpentry, culinary arts, drafting, electronics, engine repair, fashion technology, graphic communications, hairdressing/cosmetology, manufacturing technology, microcomputer software technology, plumbing, and welding. Some trade areas are offered at nearly every school, while others are available in only one location. Each school offers at least 10 trade programs.

The State Board of Education is responsible for the educational interests of the state including vocational education. A subcommittee of the board serves as the Vocational-Technical School Committee. The committee develops policy and recommends actions to the full board.

A superintendent of vocational-technical (v-t) schools, appointed by the state board, reports to the commissioner of education. Each individual school has a director, a citizen's consulting committee, an admissions advisory committee, a parent-teacher organization, and a number of local craft committees.

The estimated state FY 99 budget for the vocational-technical schools program is \$89.2 million. Most of this money is from the General Fund. The system has 1,432 funded positions.

Area of Focus

The study will concentrate on the ability of the state vocational-technical school system to identify and respond to changing job skill needs of the marketplace. It also will examine the job readiness of those completing v-t school programs.

Areas of Analysis

Capacity by school location

Applicant and enrollment levels by school location

Composition of the student body by sex, race, and age (i.e., secondary student or adult)

Changes in program offerings over time

Graduation rates by trade area and school location

Post-graduate placement activity (e.g., work, college, military, etc.) by trade program

Graduate and employer satisfaction with the education and training received

Expenditures over time

Alternative vocational training opportunities

Mechanisms used to identify new trade programs

Processes used to introduce new trade programs into the curriculum

Procedures used to update existing trade programs

Measures used to identify programs for elimination

Approaches taken to attract and retain a diverse student population

Areas Not Included in Analysis

The examination of alternative vocational training opportunities will identify and summarize types of programs, but it will not include an in-depth review of individual programs.