

Title: Middle School Teachers' Perceptions of and Practices in the Implementing of the Carnegie Council's Recommendations for Preparing Youth for the 21st Century

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ABSTRACT

The Carnegie Council's Recommendations for preparing American youth for the 21st century established the path that middle level educators would take. The recommendations provided an agenda for action at the middle level. The focus of the study examined a) the characteristics of middle school teacher perceptions toward, and practices in the implementation of the Carnegie Council's Recommendations for preparing American youth 21st century and b) to identify individual and institutional factors that influence middle school teachers' perceptions and practices.

One hundred sixty middle school teachers in western Pennsylvania participated in this survey study. Several key findings emerged from the teachers' responses. First middle school teachers implement many of the recommendations suggested by the Carnegie Council and Adolescent Development. Second, middle school teachers agree with the beliefs of the Carnegie Council as each recommendation is designed to improve schools and address the development needs of adolescents. Grade level assignment, middle level training, teacher knowledge of the Carnegie (1989) Recommendations, and school setting emerged as factors that significantly influenced teachers' perceptions of and practice in the implementation of the Carnegie (1989) Recommendations.