

Title: A Survey of Vocational Administrators and Teachers in Career & Technical Education Centers Regarding Their Perception of Vocational Program Improvements

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The purpose of this statewide study is to assess the perceived improvements made to programs that are offered at Career & Technical Education Centers from the perspective of vocational administrators and teachers following the Bureau of Career & Technical Education conduction of an Approved Program Evaluation. The Pennsylvania Bureau of Career & Technical Education initiated a multi-year Approved Program Evaluation review visit at each Career and Technical Education Center within the State beginning in 2005.

A sample population of 385 participants was selected to participate in the internet-based survey. One hundred sixteen surveys were returned creating a return rate of 30%.

The preceding research findings offer a basis for and support the following conclusions:

1. The program evaluation seemed to have little impact on organizational change within Career and Technology Centers throughout Pennsylvania.
2. Program Evaluation did allow Career and Technology Centers to demonstrate existing adequate practices or the ability to make minor changes to become compliant and allows for the verification of accountability and results required to receive federal Carl D. Perkins funding as described by Haigh (2007).
3. The perceived change of administrators and teachers from the Program Evaluation was minimal and did not have a significant impact on the operations of each Career and Technology Center.
4. In the future, the Program Evaluation should be revised.

5. Future funding to continue the Program Evaluation should be linked to definitive improvements which can be made to career and technical programs
6. The Program Evaluation should challenge schools which have identified they are already meeting State standards to push themselves further and achieve goals higher than previously achieved minimum requirements.