

VoCATS Briefing

VoCATS Purpose

The purpose of VoCATS is to provide schools with a computerized instructional management system that can be used for the following:

- Planning instruction
- Assessing students before, during, and after instruction
- Evaluating student mastery of competencies
- Documenting student achievement
- Providing accountability data

What is VoCATS?

VoCATS is a competency-based, computer-supported system encompassing the following:

- Course planning
- Lesson planning
- Test/assessment items
- Aggregated and disaggregated reports by students, by class, by teacher, by school, and by LEA

Current Status

The current status of the VoCATS effort is as follows:

- More than 300 business representatives, 150 local administrators, and thousands of teachers in Career-Technical Education have been involved in developing curriculum materials.
- All LEAs are using VoCATS-designated software components and 95 percent of all high schools and many elementary and middle schools have computer hardware to run this software.
- Approximately 90% of WDE teachers have participated in VoCATS staff development.

Components provided by SDPI

Components provided by the State Workforce Development Staff include the following:

- System design and development
- 129 course blueprints validated by business/industry (Course blueprints include competencies and objectives.)

- 116 banks of assessment items distributed electronically
- 100 curriculum guides developed or adopted for use in North Carolina
- Generation of secured End-of-Course tests or postassessments for courses supported in the Programs of Study
- Staff development
- Help desk to assist LEAs with implementation of VoCATS and use of related software

Recognition

The VoCATS process has received recognition from the following:

- The U. S. Department of Education has recognized VoCATS as a national instructional model in Workforce Development Education.
- The Rand Corporation has cited VoCATS as an exemplary statewide system to assess student learning in Workforce Development Education.

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