



Virginia
Commission on Youth

Update on 2009 Studies

September 23, 2009

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2009 Studies

- **Truancy and School Dropout Prevention**
- **Career and Technical Education Programs**
- ***The Collection of Evidence-based Treatment Modalities for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Needs, 4th Edition***



Virginia
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Study of Truancy and School Dropout Prevention Year 2



Study Mandate

- At the April 2008 meeting, the Commission on Youth (COY) approved a two-year plan to study the issues of truancy and school dropout prevention in the Commonwealth.
- The study originated from legislation introduced by Delegate Franklin P. Hall (HB 1263, 2008).
- The House Education Committee requested COY, in cooperation with the Department of Education, to study the issues set forth in the legislation.



Study Activities – Year 2

- Reconvened Truancy and Dropout Prevention Advisory Group
 - Invited representatives from the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council and the Virginia State Crime Commission.
- Interviewing impacted stakeholders
 - Youth, parents and/or caregivers
 - School Superintendents
 - Attendance Officers
 - Community Services Board Representatives



Study Activities – Year 2 (cont).

- Review of other states' policies
- Review of federal legislation/statutes
 - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2008
 - No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
 - Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act
- Review of Virginia laws
 - Truancy and compulsory education statutes
 - Child in Need of Supervision (CHINSup) statutes
 - Juvenile confidentiality statutes



Study Activities – Year 2 (cont).

- Analysis of Virginia practices
 - Virginia’s dropout prevention initiatives
 - School divisions’ attendance polices
 - School divisions’ application of truancy statutes
 - Truancy and the role of the Judiciary
 - Changes to the Regulations for Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia
 - ✓ Graduation Index
 - ✓ Academic and Career Plan



Study Activities – Year 2 (cont.)

- Advisory Group Meetings
 - April 20
 - June 15
 - July 20
 - October – *date to be determined*
- Youth Roundtable
 - October – *date to be determined*



Identified Issues from Study

- The VDOE resource on attendance is not current.*
- There is no statewide definition for truancy.
- Some local attendance practices are inconsistent with the *Code of Virginia*.
- Some local school divisions perceive the 140-hour seat rule is a barrier to graduation. Guidance is needed on how this rule may be waived for students who can demonstrate course mastery.
- School divisions' accounting on truancy do not provide enough detail on actual truancy practices and intervention efforts.

*Source: Virginia Department of Education, *Improving School Attendance, A Research Guide for Virginia Schools*, 2005.



COY is receiving feedback on the following:

- Assessing whether there are barriers to information sharing within law enforcement (e.g. court service units and school recourse officers);
- Reviewing the intake process for truancy cases, particularly with filing CHINSup Petitions;
- Making compulsory attendance mandatory for students referred to alternative education who have been long-term suspended or expelled; and
- Preserving existing prevention programming funds.



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Study of Career and Technical Education



Study Mandate

- COY approved the following recommendation at the May 2009 meeting:
 - Conduct a gap analysis of career and technical educational (CTE) programs in the Commonwealth;
 - Identify resources and system improvements that may be needed, at the state and local level, to ensure that CTE meets current and evolving needs of students and communities;
 - Identify CTE options available in a student's educational career; and
 - Report findings and recommendations to COY prior to the 2010 General Assembly Session.



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Study Activities

- Federal statutory review
- State statutory review
- Analyze Virginia practices/CTE programs
- Conduct site visits
- Conduct literature reviews
- Convene Advisory Group
- Conduct Regional Roundtables

COY recipient of State Farm Good Neighbor Grant



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Advisory Group Membership

- Industry representatives
- Business representatives
- Virginia Manufacturers Association
- Virginia Chamber of Commerce
- Virginia Community College System
- Virginia Workforce Council
- *Jobs for Virginia Graduates* program
- CTE Educators/Administrators
- Local School Division representatives
- Virginia Association for CTE
- Virginia PTA
- University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center
- Department of Education
- Secretary of Education
- Virginia Municipal League/Virginia Association of Counties
- School Board Representatives
- Regional CTE Centers



Study Activities

- Advisory Group Meetings

- July 24
- October – *date to be determined*
- November – *date to be determined*

- Regional Roundtables

Funded by State Farm Good Neighbor Grant

- Richmond Roundtable – July 24
- Hanover Center for Trades and Technology – September 21
- Chantilly High School Academy – September 30
- Advanced Technology Center Virginia Beach – October 2
- Mountain Empire – *date to be determined**
- Henry County – *date to be determined**
- New River Valley – *date to be determined**
- Massanutten Technology Center – *date to be determined**



Study Issues

- CTE programs can help improve Virginia's graduation rate by keeping students at-risk of dropping out engaged in school.
- CTE may be more beneficial if introduced earlier in the student's educational career.
- Existing entry points to CTE may not adequately emphasize career exploration and education for all students.
- A strong CTE program is crucial for students whose educational interests may not require a four-year college degree.
- The areas of study in CTE programs are critical to the economic well-being of our society.
- Workforce development is a crucial but frequently overlooked component in the educational spectrum.



Study Issues (cont.)

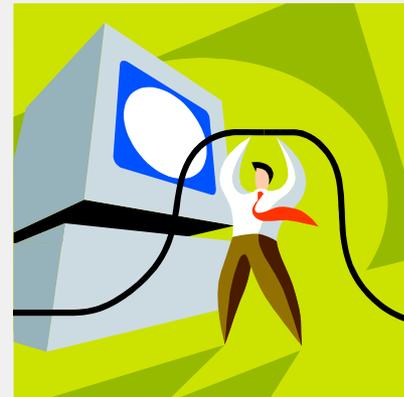
- The adequacy of the skilled trade workforce has become an issue in Virginia.
- There may be a shortfall in trained workers, as high as 12,000, between 2007 and 2012.
- There are regional imbalances such as capacity issues of existing training programs.



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Study Issues (cont.)

- U.S. Department of Labor tells us that 76% of the jobs created over the next 20 years will not require a four-year college degree.





Study Issues (cont.)

- CTE not an “either”/”or” approach.
- Pressure to go to college.
- “Trades” are not well-perceived by students.
- Need to get students “hands on” experience earlier in their academic career.
- Guidance counselors’ lack awareness of CTE.
- CTE considered an expensive elective.



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***The Collection of Evidence-based
Treatment Modalities for Children
and Adolescents with Mental Health
Needs, 4th Edition
(the “Collection”)***



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Study Mandate

- COY directed to:
 - ✓ Seek the assistance of the Advisory Group, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Secretary of Public Safety, and Secretary of Education in posting, maintaining and biennially updating the **Collection**; and
 - ✓ Make the **Collection** available through web technologies.
- The **Collection 4th Edition** is underway and due to be published in 2009.



Study Activities

- Partner with a university to enhance the content of the *Collection* for the biennial update.
 - ❖ Established partnership with **Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Psychology** in Spring 2009.
- Review other states' initiatives regarding the utilization and dissemination of evidence-based practices (EBPs) in the field of children's mental health.
- Suggest modifications to *Collection*.
- Formulate recommendations for *Collection*.



Study Activities (cont.)

- Advisory Group Meetings
 - April 1, 2008
 - August 13, 2009
 - Joint meeting with Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services' (DBHDS) System of Care Advisory Team
 - Suggest modifications to *Collection*.
 - Formulate recommendations for *Collection*.



Identified Issues

- Align *Collection* biennial update with other statewide efforts/initiatives with children's mental health
 - DBHDS and the System of Care Advisory Team
DBHDS Interagency Substance Abuse Workgroup
 - Joint Subcommittee on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
 - Commonwealth's Review of Autism Services



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Identified Issues (cont.)

- Assessment not an integral part of service delivery.
- Providers desire information on “simple” screening instruments.
- Common sense is under-rated.
- EBPs have implementation issues.
- Workforce development issues impact the utilization of EBPs
- What is being taught in universities is not in synch with what students must know to be ready to work in the field.



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Upcoming Activities for COY Studies



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Upcoming Activities for COY Studies

- Schedule additional Advisory Group meetings.
- Schedule additional Roundtable meetings.
- Complete research and literature reviews.
- Complete interviews with all impacted stakeholders, students and parents.
- Develop recommendations.
 - Synthesize findings and recommendations.
 - Solicit feedback from stakeholders and impacted agencies.
- Present recommendations to Commission on Youth.
- Prepare final report.