

Spotlight Strategy: Make Program and Instructional Decisions Based on Data

Berks Career and Technology Center

In order to evaluate and address school and student success, the administrators at Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC) regularly monitor several performance indicators. Among the most important of these indicators are enrollment and student achievement.

Enrollment – “BCTC is a school of choice and enrollment is directly tied to the success of the school”, according to Dr. Robert Lees, Administrative Director. For their secondary program, benchmark enrollment is evaluated to ensure they are keeping pace with enrollment increases at regional high schools. The BCTC goal is a minimum yearly enrollment gain of five percent. There was a seven percent increase in enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year. There is a similar goal for postsecondary enrollment which also helps measure the financial health of the program.

Student achievement – BCTC uses three main indicators to monitor student achievement – academics, occupational competence and industry certifications.

Academic benchmarks center around reading and math scores on the PSSA. BCTC’s minimum standard is for 11th graders to increase scores by two percent annually. This is also the Pennsylvania state standard.

Occupational competence is evaluated by the end of program NOCTI exam. BCTC’s goal is that students scoring at the competence level or above will increase by five percent annually.

The state and BCTC goal for industry certifications is that every student earns a minimum of one industry certification by program completion, but certifications are not currently available for all 35 programs at BCTC. For now, BCTC aims to increase the ratio between the number of certificates earned over the previous year and the number of graduating seniors.

Other indicators that are regularly tracked are student completion of CTE programs, failure rates and postsecondary placement. BCTC works to increase achievement of these indicators by at least two percent annually, and according to their data, this goal is being achieved.

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Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC) operates two campuses in Leesport and Oley, Pennsylvania. As a part time career and technology center, it enrolls approximately 1,850 students in grades 10 through 12 and provides 35 career and technical education programs. BCTC serves 16 school districts.