

Ratings for Career and Technology Centers

Initial state ratings criteria and definitions were developed through work with a group of career and technology center directors and with advice from the School-to-Work Advisory Council. Beginning in 2005 the criteria were reviewed by the Career and Technology Center Ratings Advisory Committee for their congruence with federal Perkins vocational education program and accountability requirements. Three criteria for use in the ratings have been adopted as shown below.

- ❑ **Mastering core competencies or certification requirements:** The percentage of students enrolled in career and technology courses at the center who pass the certification or licensure examinations taken. For those students enrolled in curriculum areas in which certification or licensure examinations are not currently offered, the Mastery criterion is the percentage who earn a 2.0 or above on the final course grade. Under this system, each student will count once through his/her certification or licensure examination, or the GPA of 2.0 earned in the CATE courses. Students are to be assessed on the competencies identified in the adopted syllabi or specified for certification programs (e.g., FAMS). This factor applies to any career and technology course in the center. This criterion is weighted at twice the value of other criteria (50%).
- ❑ **Center 12th Grade Graduation rate:** The number of twelfth-grade career technology education students who graduate in the spring is divided by the number of twelfth graders enrolled in the center and converted to a percentage. This criterion incorporates passage of the Exit Examination required for graduation.
- ❑ **Placement rate:** The number of career and technology completers who are available for placement in postsecondary instruction, military services, or employment is divided into the number of students over a three-year period who are actually placed and converted to a percentage. This criterion mirrors the Perkins standard.

The criteria should be weighted as follows:

- ❑ Mastering core competencies or certification requirements should be weighted 50 percent in the calculation of the rating.
- ❑ Center 12th Grade Graduation rate should be weighted 25 percent.
- ❑ Placement rate should be weighted 25 percent.

Absolute Rating Calculation

Ratings are calculated using a mathematical formula based on the point weightings in Table 26, which results in an index.

**Table 26
Career and Technology Center Absolute Ratings Criteria**

Criterion	Points Assigned				
	5	4	3	2	1
Mastery (weighted x 5)	94% or more	89–93%	78–88%	72–77%	71% or below
Center 12th Grade Graduation Rate (weighted x 2.5)	97% or more	92–96%	87–91%	82–86%	81% or below
Placement Rate (weighted x 2.5)	98% or more	95–97%	92–94%	89–91%	88% or below

The absolute index is calculated using the following formula:

- (1) Match the center’s data/performance to the points assigned to each rating criterion (table above).
- (2) Add the weighted points for each criterion. Weighted points are calculated by multiplying the assigned points by the weighting factor assigned to each criterion. Weighting factors are:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 \text{Mastery} & = & 5.0 \\
 \text{Graduation} & = & 2.5 \\
 \text{Placement} & = & 2.5 \\
 \hline
 \text{Total Weight} & = & 10
 \end{array}$$

- (3) Add the points and divide the total by ten (the total of criteria weighting factors). The resulting index determines the school’s Absolute Rating as follows:

**Table 27
Career and Technology Center Absolute Performance Rating**

Year	Range of Indices Corresponding to Absolute Rating				
	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	School at Risk
2010 and beyond	3.9 and above	3.5–3.8	3.1–3.4	2.7–3.0	Below 2.7

Sample Calculation of an Absolute Rating for a Career and Technology Center

78% of students exhibiting mastery:	(4 X 5) =20.0 points
97% of Twelfth graders graduating:	(5 X 2.5) =12.5 points
73% placement rate:	(1 X 2.5) = <u>+2.5 points</u>
Total points:	35 points
Divided by 10:	<u>÷10</u> (total of weights)
Absolute Index:	3.5 Index
Absolute Rating:	Average

Growth Rating – Career and Technology Centers

Note: Longitudinal student-matched data are unavailable for career and technology centers because of the structure of the curriculum and the criteria used in the ratings. Therefore, the methodology examines improvement of cohorts of students over time.

School indices are compared using student cohort data. The absolute index of scores from year one is computed and compared to the absolute index from year two. The difference between the two indices will be computed. For example, if the year two index is 3.54 and the year one index was 3.20, the difference would be .34, which rounds to 0.3. The amount of change (difference from one year to the next) determines the rating as follows:

Table 28
Career and Technology Center Growth Rating

Rating	Growth Index
Excellent	0.4 or greater
Good	0.3
Average	0.1–0.2
Below Average	0.0
At Risk	-0.1 or less

Sample Calculation of a Growth Rating for a Career and Technology Center

Absolute Rating index for school year for which report card is based:	2.44
Absolute Rating index for the prior school year:	<u>-2.22</u>
	Difference: 0.22
	Rounds to: 0.2
	Growth Rating: Average

A school's Growth Rating may be increased by one level if the growth in performance of historically underachieving students meets or exceeds a criterion. Historically underachieving groups consist of African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students, Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, migrant students, those eligible for the free or reduced-price federal lunch program and students with disabilities (excluding students receiving speech services only). The school's eligibility for the increased Growth Rating is determined as follows:

- (1) Calculate the growth index for the group of eligible students. The group must consist of forty or more students to be considered for analysis.
- (2) Compare the growth index for the group to the state two-year average growth index for all students in the state. The state two-year average growth index is the average of the growth Indices for all students for the current and prior years. If the growth index for the historically underachieving group in the school exceeds the state two-year average growth index by at least one standard deviation, the school's Growth Rating may be increased by one level. If the school is rated Excellent for growth on the basis of all students, the performance for groups also should be calculated and reported even though the school's rating cannot be increased.

Schools with Absolute Ratings of Excellent in Two Adjacent Years

If a school is rated Excellent for absolute achievement for both the current and the previous years, the school will receive a Growth Rating of Good. If the school's growth index for all students is a positive number (i.e., greater than zero), the school's Growth Rating will be elevated to Excellent. The performance growth of the groups also will be reported for these schools. Schools achieving an absolute index of 4.75 or higher for two consecutive years will be awarded an Excellent Growth Rating.