

Issues and Challenges Facing Distance Education High Schools and Their Solutions

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The Breakout Seminar briefly discussed the high school completion rates for “brick and mortar” schools in various states as they are influenced by current federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. The lack of success of these regulatory efforts, are resulting in vast numbers of students who want to earn their high school diploma which has created new opportunities for distance education high schools. Distance Education and Training Council high school members should continue to take advantage of this opportunity in providing solutions for the increasing challenges high school students face.

Statistics show lower high school completion rates and that high school graduates are not academically prepared for the workforce or postsecondary education. During the Breakout Seminar, it was suggested that, courses of study can develop and refresh academic skills for students planning on enrolling in an occupational certificate, associate or bachelor degree programs focusing on the areas of language arts, reading; language arts, writing; social studies; science and mathematics. Many adult learners are interested in preparing academically for successful completion of the General Equivalency Diploma Examination, earning their high school diploma or to refresh academic skills for postsecondary education and lifelong learning.

Specifically the DETC high school members would like to have a seminar devoted to DETC Standards on Educational Program Objectives, Curricula, and Materials; Educational Services; Student Services; Student Achievement and Satisfaction; and Admission Practices and Enrollment Agreements.

The Breakout Seminar concluded with a commitment to have a day-long seminar at least every other year in conjunction with the Distance Education and Training Council Fall Education Workshop. The next high school seminar will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at The Naples Grande in Naples, Florida.