

WHAT SHOULD BE THE NATURE OF
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN FLORIDA'S SCHOOLS?

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The Nature and Characteristics of
Vocational Education in Florida

Florida was ranked the best state in the nation for "overall business climate" in a survey by the national accounting firm of Alexander Grant and Company. The managing partner of the firm's southeastern region stated that a major reason for the ranking was the large number of people taking vocational courses. Florida has the highest percentage of population enrolled in vocational education institutions--1.66 percent. This reflects Florida's concern for Vocational Education. Number three in the priority list of Florida's goals for education in the Florida State Plan for Vocational Education reads as follows:

All Floridians shall have the opportunity to master vocational competencies necessary for entry level employment by the time they leave fulltime education . . . Vocational Education shall be continuously reviewed to assure that Florida's needs for workers are met and that individuals can secure further training needed for career advancement.

Generally, Florida's Vocational Education program parallels the nation's. The 1982 Annual Evaluation Report of the Florida State Advisory Council on Vocational and Technical Education stated that 1,126,459 persons were enrolled in Vocational Education at all levels in the following areas: Agriculture, Distributive Education, Health, Consumer and Homemaking, Gainful Home Economics, Office Occupations,