

**Subpart A—General**

**§ 413.1 What is the National Center or Centers for Research in Vocational Education?**

The Secretary supports the establishment of one or two National Centers for Research in Vocational Education (National Center) in the areas of—

- (a) Applied research and development; and
- (b) Dissemination and training.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 2404)

**§ 413.2 Who is eligible to apply for the National Center or Centers?**

An institution of higher education or consortium of institutions of higher education may apply to be a National Center under this part.

CROSS-REFERENCE: See 34 CFR 75.127 through 75.129, Group Applications.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 2404(a)(5))

**§ 413.3 What kinds of activities are carried out?**

The Secretary provides a grant or cooperative agreement to a National Center or Centers that are designed to perform either one or both of the following activities:

(a) *Applied research and development activities.* (1) A major purpose of the National Center is to design and conduct research and development activities that are consistent with the purposes of the Act, including—

- (i) Longitudinal studies that extend over a period of years;
- (ii) Supplementary and short-term activities; and
- (iii) Upon negotiation with the center, and if funds are provided pursuant to section 404(d) of the Act, such other topics as the Secretary may designate.

(2) The National Center shall conduct applied research and development activities that include examination of the following:

- (i) Economic changes that affect the skills that employers seek and entrepreneurs need.
- (ii) Integration of academic and vocational education.
- (iii) Efficient and effective practices for addressing the needs of special populations.

(iv) Efficient and effective methods for delivering vocational education.

(v) Articulation of school and college instruction with high quality work experience.

(vi) Recruitment, education, and enhancement of vocational teachers and other professionals in the field.

(vii) Accountability processes in vocational education, including identification and evaluation of the use of appropriate performance standards for student, program, and State-level outcomes.

(viii) Effective practices that educate students in all aspects of the industry the students are preparing to enter.

(ix) Effective methods for identifying and inculcating literacy and other communication skills essential for effective job preparation and job performance.

(x) Identification of strategic, high priority occupational skills and skills formation approaches needed to maintain the competitiveness of the United States workforce, sustain high-wage, high-technology jobs, and address national priorities such as technical jobs needed to protect and restore the environment.

(xi) Identification of practices and strategies that address entrepreneurial development for minority-owned enterprises.

(3) The applied research and development activities must include—

- (i) An emphasis on the recruitment, education, and enhancement of minority and female vocational teachers and professionals; and
- (ii) Activities that aid in the development of minorities and women for leadership roles in vocational education.

(b) *Dissemination and training activities.* (1) A major purpose of the National Center is to design and conduct dissemination and training activities that are consistent with the purposes of the Act, including—

- (i) The broad dissemination of the results of the research and development conducted by the National Center;
- (ii) The development and utilization of a national level dissemination network including functions such as clearinghouses, databases, and telecommunications;