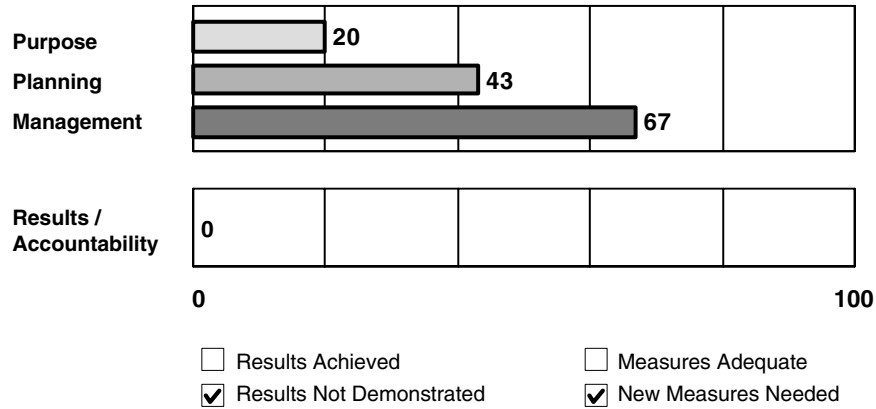


**Program: Vocational Education State Grants**

**Agency:** Department of Education

**Bureau:** Office of Vocational and Adult Education



**Key Performance Measures**

**Year Target Actual**

	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term and Annual Measures for postsecondary students: Percentage of participants who entered employment in the 1st quarter after program exit (New measure: result of common measures exercise; targets to be determined beginning in 2003)			
Long-term and Annual Measure for secondary students: Attainment of a high school diploma, certificate, or GED (New measure: result of common measures exercise; targets to be determined beginning in 2003)			
Long-term and Annual Measure for secondary students: Entry into employment or enrollment in postsecondary education/advanced training (New measure: result of common measures exercise; targets to be determined beginning in 2003)			

**Rating: Ineffective**

**Program Type:** Block / Formula Grants

**Program Summary:**

The Vocational Education State Grants provides funds to support state-sponsored vocational education programs. These programs, which are implemented in high schools and postsecondary schools, provide students with job-focused education and occupational training.

The assessment found:

1. A series of national evaluations indicate that the program provides little or no measurable advantage for high school students in terms of high school completion, postsecondary enrollment, and academic achievement.
2. Annual performance data show that many states are not making adequate progress in achieving positive student outcomes. For example, less than 40% of postsecondary "Voc. Ed." students obtain a degree or certificate.
3. There are significant problems with how the program collects information from grantees, making it difficult to know how the money is spent and what results are being achieved. For example, many states have a unique definition of who is a "Voc. Ed." student, making it difficult to compare one state to another or to develop national performance statistics.

In response to these findings, the Budget proposes to implement significant program reforms. Specifically:

1. Grantee funding will be contingent on a rigorous assessment that student outcomes are being achieved.
2. Grantees will have the flexibility to focus program funds in a manner that best serve students in a given locality.
3. States will have the option to redirect high school funds from this program into their Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs to maximize flexibility.
4. The program will correct all outstanding data collection problems and adopt new "common" performance measures that will allow better assessment of how the program is achieving student outcomes and enable comparisons with other programs serving similar objectives. The Department will set short and long-term targets based on the common measures and develop strategies for collecting the necessary data to institute common measures.

(For more information on this program, please see the Department of Education chapter in the Budget volume.)

**Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)**

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
1,180	1,180	1,000