

## U.S.Department of Education Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official on Recognition Compliance Issues

### Recommendation Page

1. **Agency:** Oklahoma Department of Career & Technology Education ( 1976 / 2016)  
(The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)
2. **Action Item:** Compliance Report
3. **Scope of Recognition:** State agency for the approval of public postsecondary vocational education.
4. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** 02/27/2020
5. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for four years.
6. **Issues or Problems:** None.

### Executive Summary

#### PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Oklahoma Board of Career and Technology Education (OBCTE) is recognized for the approval of public postsecondary vocational education programs offered at institutions in the State of Oklahoma that are not under the jurisdiction of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The OBCTE is vested with the power to govern and establish criteria and procedures for 29 technology center districts encompassing 58 campuses across the state. Approval (accreditation) by the OBCTE enables the technology centers to receive funding under Title IV, as well as under other federal programs related to vocational education.

#### Recognition History

The OBCTE was first recognized in 1976 and has held continued recognition since that time. The agency submitted its most recent full petition for renewed recognition for consideration at the Fall 2015 NACIQI meeting. At that time, its recognition was continued and it was requested to submit a compliance report on several issues. The agency submitted its compliance report at the Winter 2018 NACIQI meeting. The agency was given an extension for good cause for one year which is the subject of this report.

---

#### PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

##### 603.24 Criteria for State agencies

**The following are the criteria which the Secretary of Education will utilize in designating a State agency as a reliable authority to assess the quality of public postsecondary vocational education in its respective State.**

The agency is compliant in this area. In response to the compliance report, the agency provided revised accreditation guidelines, a sample self-assessment form relevant to this criterion, and a completed evaluation form provided as part of an institution's self-assessment. The agency's revised guidelines require that the institution document student involvement in the self-assessment process, and provide examples of types of student engagement. The sample evaluation form provided requires an evaluation of the institution's involvement of students in the self-assessment process, and the agency provided a completed self-study evaluation form documenting an institution's response in relation to this criterion.

**(iii) Provides the chief executive officer of the institution program with opportunity to comment upon the written report and to file supplemental materials pertinent to the facts and conclusions in the written report of the visiting team before the agency takes action on the report;**

The agency is compliant in this area. In response to the compliance report, the agency provided documentation showing communication with a superintendent offering the opportunity to provide feedback on an agency site visit report. The agency described their process for sending and verifying receipt of the report, as well as for submission by the superintendent of a rebuttal or supplemental material by the superintendent. The agency has provided evidence of the implementation of policy and procedures that meet the requirements of this criterion.

**(1) Promotes a well-defined set of ethical standards governing institutional or programmatic practices, including recruitment, advertising, transcripts, fair and equitable student tuition refunds, and student placement services;**

The agency is compliant in this area. In response to the compliance report, the agency provided updated agency accreditation guidelines which include requirements related to this criterion. The revised guidelines require that institutions implement well defined ethical standards, including in the areas of recruitment, advertising, transcripts, fair and equitable student tuition refunds, and student placement services. The agency's policies include detailed requirements related to ethical treatment of students in these areas. The agency has not conducted any site visits since the implementation of this policy to reflect evaluation by the agency in this area; however, the agency provided excerpts from a completed institutional self-study that was submitted prior to an upcoming site visit and which requests information relevant to ethics. Additional materials were provided by the agency to support the new ethics standards.

---

### **PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS**

The Department did not receive any written third - party comments regarding this agency.