



**Office of Education  
Performance Audits**

**FINAL EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT  
FOR  
RALPH R. WILLIS VOCATIONAL CENTER**

**LOGAN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**APRIL 2010**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

An announced Education Performance Audit of Ralph R. Willis Vocational Center in Logan County was conducted March 5, 2009. The purpose of the review was to assess the technical education center's compliance and progress with the high quality standards mandated by West Virginia Code §18-2E-5.

A Follow-up Education Performance Audit of Ralph R. Willis Vocational Center in Logan County was conducted March 4, 2010. The purpose of the follow-up was to verify correction of the findings identified during the original Education Performance Audit. The review was in accordance with West Virginia Code §18-2E-5 and West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2320 which specify that a school that meets or exceeds the performance and progress standards but has other deficiencies shall remain on full accreditation status and a county school district shall remain on full approval status for the remainder of the accreditation period and shall have an opportunity to correct those deficiencies. The Code and policy include the provision that a school “. . . does not have any deficiencies which would endanger student health or safety or other extraordinary circumstances as defined by the West Virginia Board of Education.”

## 45-701 RALPH R. WILLIS VOCATIONAL CENTER

Kobie H. Coburn, Principal

### EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT

#### NONCOMPLIANCE

##### 7.1. Curriculum

**7.1.7. Library/educational technology access and technology application. The application of technology is included throughout all programs of study and students have regular access to library/educational technology centers or classroom libraries. (Policy 2470; Policy 2510)**

While a plan was in place to correct the impediments to technology access and technology application, the Team observed the following violations of Policy 6022.

Section 302. Technology.

Specification: 302.073. Switching.

The data infrastructure shall provide a minimum of 100MB Ethernet Layer II Switching to all Local Area Network (LAN) drops. 1GB Ethernet Layer III Switching should be utilized for Local Area Network drops.

Specification: 302.074. Cabling.

A minimum of CAT5e Plenum rated cabling, rated and tested at 350Mhz, shall be utilized for all data infrastructure. CAT6 Plenum rated cabling, rated at 350Mhz should be utilized for all data infrastructure.

Specification: 302.08. Wireless Infrastructure.

302.081. All wireless implementations shall be secured with encryption.

#### Deficiencies

Although the school was making efforts toward upgrading their Local Area Network (LAN) Infrastructure, several problems still existed.

1. 100MB Layer II Switching did not exist. Several old hubs still existed in the network. Examples included:
  1. Adult ABE Class had hub lying in the floor.
  2. 10MB media converters were being used with hubs for the fiber connections limiting network performance.
  3. Electronics currently being utilized were not adequately mounted in approved distribution frames.
2. Existing cabling was nonstructured Category 5, which did not meet the CAT5e specification. Current cabling was not structured and was in poor condition. Interviews with staff indicated that frequent network problems affected instruction. The school principal as well as the school's approved Technology Plan indicated plans to upgrade to CAT6. New electronics and distribution frames were installed in the summer of 2008, but remained non-

operational. The new electronics will not be useful until the cable drops are replaced. Upgrading the school's LAN cabling had not been scheduled.

Wireless existed in the school, but it was not encrypted which left the school's network exposed.

### **FOLLOW-UP REVIEW**

**COMPLIANCE.** All technical areas identified that impeded technology access and technology application had been corrected and brought up to standard.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**7.1.3. Learning environment.** The ProStart laboratory was heavily soiled. Evidence of food preparation from past days was visible due to the area not being cleaned. The refrigerator and the area was extremely cluttered and contained outdated food. The Team recommended that the area be cleaned and maintained to ensure student safety and health.

### **FOLLOW-UP REVIEW**

**RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED.** The ProStart area was clean and organized. The principal stated that since the original Education Performance Audit the educational atmosphere of the class had been positive and upbeat. He attributed this to the Team's recommendation specifically stated in the report and action resulting from the recommendation.

## **INDICATORS OF EFFICIENCY**

Indicators of efficiency for student and school system performance and processes were reviewed in the following areas: Curriculum delivery, including but not limited to, the use of distance learning; facilities; administrative practices; personnel; utilization of regional education service agency, or other regional services that may be established by their assigned regional education service agency. This section contains indicators of efficiency that the Education Performance Team assessed as requiring more efficient and effective application.

The indicators of efficiency listed are intended to guide Ralph R. Willis Vocational Center in providing a thorough and efficient system of education. Logan County is obligated to follow the Indicators of Efficiency noted by the Team. Indicators of Efficiency shall not be used to affect the approval status of Logan County or the accreditation status of the school.

The education programs at the Ralph R. Willis Vocational Center would operate more efficiently if Logan County and the vocational center followed the Technology Plan and upgraded the LAN cabling.

### **FOLLOW-UP CONCLUSION**

**Ralph R. Willis Vocational Center and Logan County provided the support needed to correct the area of deficiency.**

## **BUILDING CAPACITY TO CORRECT DEFICIENCIES**

West Virginia Code §18-2E-5 establishes that the needed resources are available to assist the school or school system in achieving the standards and alleviating the deficiencies identified in the assessment and accountability process. To assist Ralph R. Willis Vocational Center in achieving capacity, the following resources are recommended.

- 18.1. Capacity building is a process for targeting resources strategically to improve the teaching and learning process. School and county electronic strategic improvement plan development is intended, in part, to provide mechanisms to target resources strategically to the teaching and learning process to improve student, school, and school system performance.**

The Team determined that the Ralph R. Willis Vocational Center and Logan County have the capacity to correct the identified deficiency and the recommendation.

### **FOLLOW-UP CONCLUSION**

**The staff of Ralph R. Willis Vocational Center and Logan County exhibited the ability and desire to correct the identified deficiency and followed the recommendation to better serve the vocational center's students.**

## **SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STATUS**

The Office of Education Performance Audits recommends that the West Virginia Board of Education continue the Full Accreditation status of Ralph R. Willis Vocational Center.