NSSB Committee Descriptions

Access, Diversity, and Civil Rights Committee

Purpose: To provide guidance to the National Skill Standards Board (NSSB) regarding issues of access, diversity, and civil rights as they relate to the creation of a national system of skill standards.

Main Objectives:

- To ensure that Board recommendations are consistent with laws and public policies designed to eliminate discrimination;
- To remove barriers to access, expand opportunities for members of the workforce who face discrimination and disadvantage; and
- To utilize the diverse talents and skills of the workforce.

Clearinghouse/Information Management Committee

Purpose: To support the Clearinghouse/Technical Assistance team in the task of information dissemination through policy initiatives and resource allocations, and to advocate for Clearinghouse functions before the full Board.

Main Objectives:

- To establish information dissemination systems which will provide easy access by workers and organizations to current, accurate, complete information on skill standards and related issues;
- To provide technical guidance to the Board in areas such as policy analysis and system specifications pertaining to the design and implementation of a national skill standards system;
- To assist in developing quality control policies and systems to ensure that information handled by the Clearinghouse is relevant, timely and accurate; and
- To develop strategies for recommending resources, technologies and innovations, as necessary to meet ongoing needs of stakeholder groups in their efforts to understand, adapt and utilize skill standards.

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Purpose: To design processes and tools as well as implementation strategies to support the endorsement of Voluntary Partnership Skill Standard Systems, execute the Voluntary Partnership endorsements, recommend candidates for Best Practice Awards, and continuously evaluate and improves processes and tools as they are designed.

Main Objectives:

- To continuously improve processes by which the Voluntary Partnerships will be endorsed;
- To collaborate with the Voluntary Partnerships in designing tools and processes which they will use to endorse Specialty Certificates on behalf of the NSSB; and
- To identify existing skill standards efforts which provide a good model for other projects.

Executive Committee

Purpose: To facilitate the decision-making efforts of the Board of o support he exec staff in decision and settle disputes among committees and function in the absence of the Board.

Main Objectives:

- To establish procedures and processes to assure the effectiveness of Board operations;
- To establish collaborative efforts with other agencies to assist the Board with its mission;
- To oversee the Board's financial structure and expenditures; and
- To support the Executive Director with organizational staffing requirements.

Finance Committee

Purpose: To oversee the management of federally appropriated funds, including the development and oversight of Board, Committee, and Operations budgets as they relate to the Strategic Planning Process.

Main Objectives:

- To operate within Federal regulations and guidelines and to make the most appropriate use of taxpayer dollars;
- To arbitrate decisions amongst Board, Committee, and Staff regarding budget allocations; and

Oversee budget allocations.

Integration and Implementation Committee

Purpose: To develop and recommend policy related to integrating skill standards and certifications into the larger systems of education, workforce development, and industry application and to advocate for the development of processes and criteria for NSSB activities related to system build-out and implementation.

Main Objectives:

- To recommend Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the network of system partners and stakeholders to the Board;
- To establish practices and programs for integration of skill standards and certifications into state-directed education, economic development, and workforce development systems;
- To establish a structure and processes for linkage to other federal level programs (e.g. Workforce Investment Act) and policies;
- To develop policy and processes for international collaboration and benchmarking; and
- To organize research and develop policy and processes for development, introduction and application of NSSB-developed products and services.

Outreach Committee

Purpose: To promote, communicate, and educate current and potential stakeholders about the mission and work of the NSSB by engaging major stakeholders in an open and interactive process that includes presentations, media outreach, the Strategic Interface Program, State and Congressional outreach, Focus Group research, and public hearings.

Main Objectives:

- To develop public awareness of the importance of skill standards;
- To educate key stakeholders, national press, and the public about the work of the NSSB:
- To create ownership of the sill standards effort among key stakeholders with initial emphasis on the business community;
- To establish relationships with partners who can assist in promoting the work of the NSSB:
- To develop formal partnerships with business, labor, and educators, that highlight the need to create and adopt a national system of skill standards;

- To develop an outreach budget; and
- To develop a long-term Strategic Outreach Plan.

Standards, Assessment & Certification Policy Committee

Purpose: To recommend policies to the Board on standards, assessment, and certification.

Main Objectives:

- To develop criteria for meeting and exceeding the highest applicable standards used in the United States, including registered apprenticeship standards;
- To identify a common language for such factors as: "How to describe work?" "How to describe performance?" and "How to express levels?";
- To develop a standard to identify the critical work functions specific to the core, concentrations, and specialties;
- To develop a standard to identify the academic, employability, and occupational knowledge and skills necessary to perform critical work functions for the core, concentrations, and specialties;
- To clarify statutory requirements and Board policy on assessment; and
- To develop a criterion to ensure that standards and assessments are accessible and obtainable by workers, regardless of their status in the workforce.

Voluntary Partnership Committee

Purpose: To develop and recommend processes and criteria to be used for the identification, approval and maintenance of Voluntary Partnerships, consistent with the legislation and existing National Skill Standards Board policy.

Main Objectives:

- To develop, recommend, and implement criteria and processes for identifying organizations or coalitions of organizations to convene Voluntary Partnerships;
- To clarify legislative criteria and recommend any further criteria needed to define recognition as Voluntary Partnership;
- To increase efforts to implement the Voluntary Partnership selection process;
- To develop and recommend a plan for Technical Assistance to the Voluntary Partnerships; and
- To develop and recommend a long-range plan for the development and start-up of all

15 Voluntary Partnerships.

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We welcome your comments and feedback.

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