

EDUCATION

INDICATOR: NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE

MEASURE

The number of Montcalm County high school juniors who earn National Career Readiness Certificates at each level and the number who do not earn a certificate.

WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

The National Career Readiness Certificate is a verification of workplace-ready applied skills recognized by businesses across the country. Students who have the certificate (earned at one of four levels) have proven they can apply their knowledge in the specific areas of reading, mathematics, and locating information by taking three ACT/WorkKeys tests: *Reading for Information*, *Applied Mathematics*, and *Locating Information*.

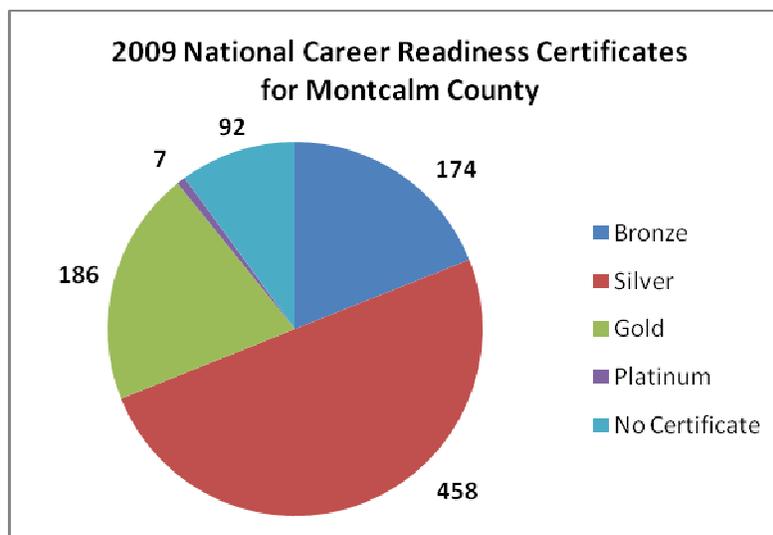
GOALS FOR MONTCALM COUNTY

1. To increase the number of Platinum and Gold certificates earned
2. To increase the number of businesses asking for a National Career Readiness Certificate
3. To verify for employers considering locating in Montcalm County the number and levels of the existing potential workforce

HOW WELL IS THE MONTCALM COMMUNITY DOING?

The Spring 2009 information will become baseline data for Montcalm County, as this was the first year all three WorkKeys tests were offered to all juniors. ACT data suggests that students entering the workforce at the “No Certificate” or Bronze levels will be unable to earn a wage to support a family of four.

Juniors in Montcalm County will improve their scores, thereby improving their certificate levels, by focusing on skills assessed on the three WorkKeys tests. Educators can strengthen the curriculum to assist students with the application of the content and skills. The certificate is based on the lowest level earned on any one of the three tests. Data analysis has revealed that students often fail to achieve a higher level certificate due to their performance on *Locating Information*.



NOTES: Data noted in chart is for Spring, 2009. In Montcalm County, 917 juniors took the WorkKeys test as part of the Michigan Merit Exam. Eight hundred twenty-five of the students earned a certificate, as noted in the pie chart. Ninety-two students did not achieve scores qualifying them for a certificate but are eligible to retest if they wish. According to data published by ACT/WorkKeys, the developer of the tests and certificates, Platinum certificate holders are qualified for 99% of the 16,000 jobs studied by ACT, Gold for 90% of the jobs studied, Silver for 65% and Bronze for 35%.