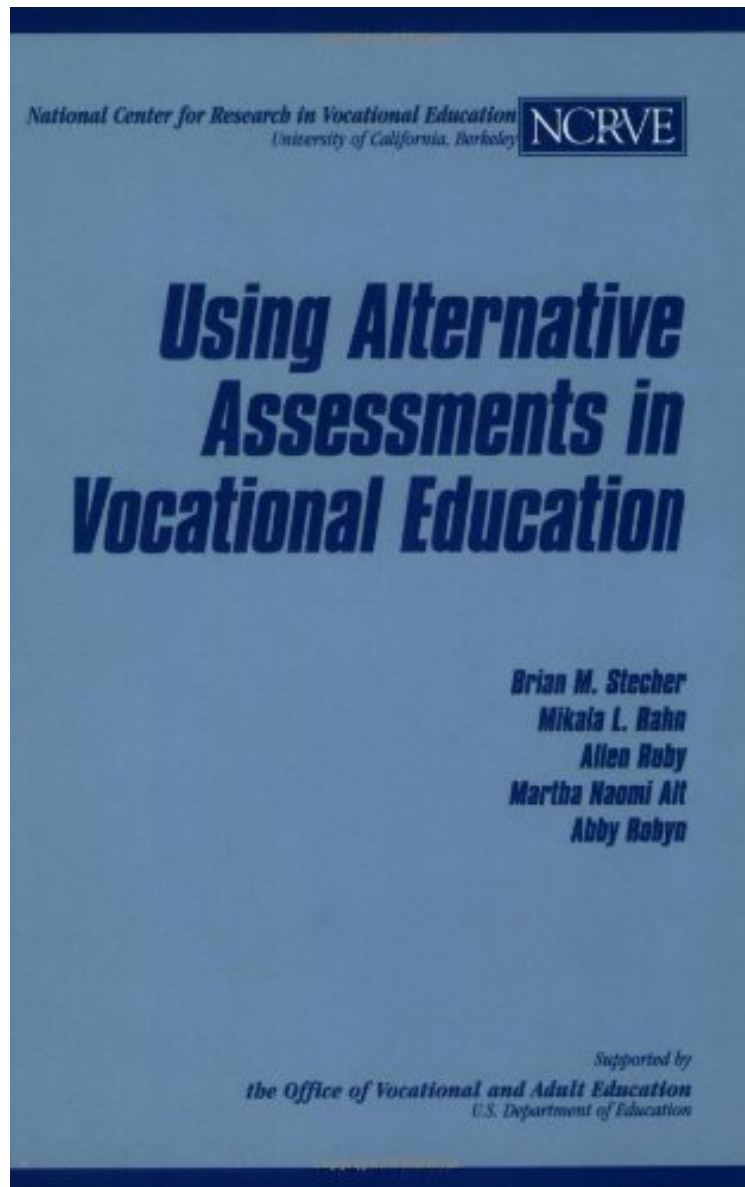


(Free and download) Using Alternative Assessments in Vocational Education

Using Alternative Assessments in Vocational Education

Brian M. Stecher, Mikala L. Rahn, Allen Ruby, Martha Naomi Alt, Abby Robyn

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



 Download

 Read Online

#4275778 in eBooks 1997-06-24 1997-06-25 File Name: B000PY4MUA | File size: 70.Mb

Brian M. Stecher, Mikala L. Rahn, Allen Ruby, Martha Naomi Alt, Abby Robyn : Using Alternative Assessments in Vocational Education before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Using Alternative Assessments in Vocational Education:

This volume covers a study of the utility of alternative (i.e., non-multiple choice) forms of student assessment for

vocational education, the primary objective of which was to describe various alternative assessments currently available and offer criteria for choosing among them. Six operational programs were used as case studies; each employs one or more constructed-response measures, and together they represent a range of assessment options. Each was critically reviewed based on descriptive materials, research literature, interviews, and, in four cases, site visits. The evaluation focused on comparing the different assessments' quality (reliability, validity, fairness), feasibility (cost, time, complexity, credibility), and potential usefulness for vocational educators. Design and implementation issues important to any decisions about using alternative assessments were determined (e.g., the need to clarify the assessment's purpose), as well as related issues (e.g., the relative advantages of low versus high stakes, voluntary versus mandatory participation). Illustrations are given of how vocational educators can use this review as an aid in determining the usefulness of the alternatives for a particular situation.

From the Publisher Student assessment has always played an important role in vocational education, and recent changes in assessment practices may hold great promise for vocational educators. A RAND study was conducted to examine alternative forms of assessment from the perspective of vocational educators. Two products resulted. The first is this report, which describes a variety of assessment alternatives, reviews examples from extended case studies, and discusses criteria for choosing among the alternatives. This report should be of interest to vocational educators at the state and local level, particularly those responsible for decisions about the form and use of assessment systems. The second product is a set of training materials to help vocational educators make effective decisions about assessments. These materials are to be offered as a supplement to *Getting to Work: A Guide for Better Schools* (Rahn et al., 1995), a recent National Center for Research in Vocational Education (NCRVE) training package. About the Author Dr. Brian Stecher (Ph.D., Education, University of California, Los Angeles) is a senior social scientist in the Education program at RAND. Dr. Stecher's research emphasis is applied educational measurement, including the implementation, quality, and impact of state assessment and accountability systems; the cost, quality, and feasibility of performance-based assessments, and the development and validation of licensing and certification examinations. Dr. Stecher currently directs a multi-state, NSF-funded study of the accountability provisions of the No Child Left Behind act, and he recently completed a four-year evaluation of the California Class Size Reduction initiative. Dr. Stecher is a member of the Technical Design Group, advising the California Department of Education on the development of that state's accountability system. Dr. Stecher has published widely in professional journals, and he is currently a member of the Editorial Board of the *Educational Assessment Journal*. Brian Ward is Associate Professor of History, University of Florida. He is coeditor of *The Making of Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement* (1996).