

## **COMPONENTS OF QUALITY SECONDARY FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES PROGRAMS**

The following components have been identified as essential for quality secondary FCS instructional programs. These components are particularly useful in planning, implementing and evaluating regional secondary FCS programs.

1. **A Qualified, Certified Professional Instructor**  
The instructor must be a fully qualified and certified secondary FCS instructor and possess appropriate non-teaching work experience. The teaching methods course and student teaching experience are vital to the success of the program. In addition, the instructor should have the interest, dedication and desire to pursue continuing staff development activities. Teachers should regularly participate in business and industry work experiences as part of their professional development to insure that the classroom instruction reflects the realities of the workplace. All FCS instructors should join and actively participate in their professional affiliate organization.
  
2. **Student Services**  
Appropriate support services are made available to all students in FCS programs including, but not limited to, the following:
  - development of an individualized career plan;
  - individual advisement by the instructor and counselor on a regular basis; and
  - additional services and/or resources to support students with special needs.
  
3. **Sequentially Structured, Articulated Programs**  
The instruction in approved FCS programs is based on worker competencies and includes the skills, knowledge and attitudes required for successful employment in the occupations served by the program. Programs include practical, logical, sequentially-structured courses and are articulated with all regional education agencies providing related instruction and training, especially in the postsecondary institutions.
  
4. **Active Career and Technical Education Student Organizations**  
Career and technical education student organizations (CTSO's) are an integral part of the instruction for all career and technical education programs. CTSO's expand and enrich the opportunities for students to develop personal qualities, leadership abilities, technical skills and other capabilities which will enhance their employability.

Family, Career and Community Leaders (FCCLA) is an integral part of all FCS programs, and is the official FCS student organization. The objective of FCCLA is to help students assume their roles in society through FCS education in the areas of personal growth, family relationships, career and technical preparation, and community involvement.

The program of work for FCCLA includes a variety of projects and activities to help achieve the goals and objectives of the organization in meeting student needs. These include:

- service learning via community service projects related to classroom instruction;
- career competitions demonstrating occupational skills by individuals and teams;
- peer education developing presentation, facilitation and teaching skills for teens; and
- leadership development through participation in individual and team projects and activities, and assuming elected or appointed office at the local chapter, state or national levels.

5. Facilities and Equipment

The facilities and equipment used in teaching FCS programs must be equal to or surpass those found in the businesses and industries where students will find employment. Selected hands-on experiences in the classrooms, laboratories, internship or extended campus sites are as essential to all FCS programs.

Facilities and equipment must be adequately designed, installed and maintained to ensure safe operation and use. Appropriate instructional and storage space must also be provided.

6. Active Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Committees

Through the regional delivery system, all FCS program instructors should organize, and regularly participate in, a regional, program-specific advisory committee. These committees provide direction and support for development and evaluation of instructional programs. Membership of the committee is comprised of employers/employees in the occupations for which instruction is being provided.