

## **OVERVIEW**

### **COMPREHENSIVE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The Arizona State Board of Education for Vocational and Technological Education on March 28, 2005, approved the new CTE Delivery system for implementation beginning in school year 2007-2008. The four levels of the new CTE Delivery system are:

- **Career Awareness** (grades K-6) – All schools are encouraged to provide experiences for students in kindergarten through grade 6 that will enable them to learn about positive interactions, personal responsibility, good work habits, work as it relates to societal needs and functions, and the management of personal and professional resources.
- **Career Exploration** (grades 7-9) – All schools receiving funds to implement Career Preparation Career and Technical Education programs are required to provide students in grades 7-9 opportunities for career exploration. The Career Exploration experience must engage students in problem solving, critical thinking, leadership building and teamwork activities and provide opportunity to learn the foundational skills in information technology, organizational systems, ethics and legal responsibilities, as well as health and safety.
- **Career Preparation** (grades 9-12) – Career and Technical Education programs that have been determined through the use of state labor market data to be high skill, high wage and/or high demand career opportunities for students are part of the Career Preparation sequence. Students enroll in the CTE program that matches their career goals and they complete a sequence of courses that leads to the completion of industry-validated assessments and certifications. Programs frequently offer postsecondary dual credit or articulation opportunities for students.
- **Career Management** – Students in grades 13 and 14 prepare for postsecondary occupational certificates, transition to higher education and receive degrees, and utilize lifelong learning skills to complete advanced degrees.

The Arizona CTE Delivery System continues to emphasize a coherent sequence of instruction. The CTE program standards are industry driven and span into postsecondary education. Standards are currently being validated and technical assessments developed. The current list of “New Technical Standards” and information regarding technical assessments can be found at <http://www.ade.az.gov/cte/CurriculumFramework/> and the end-of-program technical assessments are currently being developed and implemented. All districts will be notified as they are completed and available for distribution.

### **Career Management**

Students will manage their careers for workforce success by:

- Transitioning to higher education
- Utilizing labor market information for career selection
- Obtaining postsecondary occupational certificates and degrees
- Completing on-the-job-training
- Updating technical skills

### **Career Preparation Grades \*9 through 12**

Students will have an opportunity to prepare for careers by:

- Enrolling in CTE programs reflecting current labor market projections in Arizona
- Achieving academic standards including reading, writing, math and science embedded in CTE programs
- Attaining industry-validated standards
- Completing technical assessment options identified for CTE programs
- Enrolling in CTE programs with curricular flow articulation to postsecondary

\* Some 9<sup>th</sup> grade Career Exploration may include Career Preparation when the curriculum is designed to be delivered in grades 9 through 12.

### **Career Exploration Grades 7 through 9**

Students will explore careers and attain academic and technical skills in the following foundational areas\*\*:

- Academic foundations
- Communications
- Problem solving and critical thinking
- Information technology
- Organizational systems
- Safety, health and environment
- Leadership and teamwork
- Ethics and legal responsibilities
- Employability and career development
- Technical foundations

\*\* Career Clusters on the web at <http://www.careerclusters.org/16cluster.cfm>

### **Career Awareness Kindergarten through Grade 6**

Students will demonstrate proficiency at appropriate levels in the Arizona Workplace Standards\*\*\*:

- Communication skills
- Computation skills and data analysis techniques
- Critical and creative thinking skills
- Teamwork skills
- Marketable skills development
- Social, organizational and technological systems
- Technological literacy
- Personal and professional resource management

\*\*\*Arizona Workplace Standards on the web at <http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/workplace/default.asp>