

The CTE Assessment Story

Arizona Skill Standards Assessment System

In 2006, the Arizona Department of Education, Career and Technical Education, created the Arizona skill Standards Assessment System in response to HB2700 and similar federal legislation that requires students to pass industry-validated end-of-program assessments leading to an industry-recognized credential, postsecondary education, and/or employment. The Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission (formally the Arizona Skills Standards Commission) is the validating entity for the assessment system and the program assessments, certificates, and transcripts. These major business and education representatives meet on a regular basis and work diligently in their role as advocates for accountability and excellence in Career and Technical Education in Arizona.

Online Assessments for CTE Students

The Arizona Skill Standards Assessment System is a secure, reliable, online test application owned by the State of Arizona and housed in the Department of Education. Assessments are designed for CTE students who are in their final Carnegie Unit of the state-identified sequence of courses for a program. Each assessment is 100 multiple-choice items that are aligned with program technical standards that have been validated by Arizona business and Industry representatives. Assessment items range in cognitive difficulty from knowledge and comprehension to application, analysis, and evaluation.

Assessments Developed by CTE Teachers

There are ongoing opportunities for CTE teachers to be involved in the development and analysis of assessment items. Committees comprised of secondary and postsecondary teachers as content experts convene on Super Saturdays in January, April, and May or during Teacher Institutes in June or July. The expertise of teachers and their engagement in making connections between curriculum, instruction, and assessment has contributed greatly to the advancement of student achievement. In appreciation of their time and expertise, each teacher is awarded a professional development certificate, documenting the hours contributed to the improvement of CTE assessments.

5-Year Overview of CTE Assessment Outcomes

| 2010-2011 | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|-------------------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| Number of Assessments | 51 | Students Assessed | 20,029 | Students Passed | 15,831 (79%) |
| ↓ | | | | | |
| 2011-2012 | | | | | |
| Number of Assessments | 49 | Students Assessed | 21,639 | Students Passed | 17,213 (80%) |
| ↓ | | | | | |
| 2012-2013 | | | | | |
| Number of Assessments | 49 | Students Assessed | 22,133 | Students Passed | 17,138 (77%) |
| ↓ | | | | | |
| 2013-2014 | | | | | |
| Number of Assessments | 52 | Students Assessed | 23,417 | Students Passed | 18,118 (77%) |
| ↓ | | | | | |
| 2014-2015 | | | | | |
| Number of Assessments | 58 | Students Assessed | 27,731 | Students Passed | 21,651 (78%) |

Note: Students have two opportunities to take the assessment: once as a practice assessment and again as a final assessment. The student number for the period shown above indicates only those students who took the assessment as a final, end-of-program assessment.

Notable Outcomes:

- Some 130-150 business-industry representatives annually involved in validating program standards
- Some 200 to 250 teachers annually involved in analyzing and developing assessment items
- Increased number of program assessments available to students
- Increased number of students taking the assessments
- Increased percentage of students passing the assessments
- For 2015-2016, 60 program assessments available for CTE students



UPCOMING TECHNICAL STANDARDS VALIDATION MEETINGS

We need your help to identify industry representatives for the CTE programs listed below. This could be you or someone in your business who performs or supervises entry-level work.

- Professional Sales & Marketing, October 28
- Precision Machining, November 12
- Entertainment Marketing, December 2
- Advertising and Public Relations, January 27
- Hospitality Management, February 18
- Welding Technologies, February 19
- Education Professions, February 23
- Early Childhood Education, March 1
- Engineering Sciences, March 10
- Fire Services, March 15
- Fashion Design, April 5

TO NOMINATE AN INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE for a Technical Standards Validation

Committee, complete the form below, scan, and attach in an email OR include the required information in the body of an email and send to judy.balogh@azed.gov.

CTE Program (see list above): _____

Name: _____

Business: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Person Providing Nomination: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, please call Judy at 602-542-4155.