



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 20, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of the National Consortium on Health Sciences Education (NCHSE) National Healthcare Foundation Skills Assessment for Career and Technical Education Health Science Students and the Use of the National Cut Scores

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 requires that technical skill assessments be given to students who have completed a career and technical education (CTE) program. The development and/or selection of skills assessments will be a multi-year process involving input from business and industry, secondary and postsecondary educators, and assessment experts.

In February 2009, the Board approved the National Career Clusters as the content standards for CTE programs in Michigan. The standards for Health Science were developed by the NCHSE, which was appointed by the U.S. Department of Education as the lead for the standards. The Consortium also developed a corresponding foundation skills assessment for students. The assessment aligns to the Career Cluster standards for Health and is available at a reasonable cost (\$12 per student). Students completing CTE programs in Biotechnology Medical Sciences, Therapeutic Services, Diagnostic Services, and Health Informatics will take this assessment.

The NCHSE assessments have national cut scores. These scores were set by a group of employers based on their judgment of necessary knowledge and skills for entry-level health care workers. Students who pass the assessment, as defined using the cut score established by the consortium, receive a National Certificate issued by the NCHSE. CTE programs in Health Science have been using the Career Cluster Standards for several years.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the National Consortium on Health Sciences Education (NCHSE) National Healthcare Foundation Skills Assessment for Career and Technical Education Health Science Students and the Use of the National Cut Scores, as discussed at the October 13, 2009 State Board of Education meeting.

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