



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 26, 2016  
**TO:** State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Brian J. Whiston, Chairman   
**SUBJECT:** Approval of Energy Career Cluster and Content Standards

The Office of Career and Technical Education presented the (OCTE) is seeking approval to implement a 17<sup>th</sup> Career Cluster and content standards in Energy. There is a need for qualified individuals to fill skilled energy jobs. The OCTE has partnered with the Michigan Energy Workforce Development Consortium (MEWDC), which is an industry-led partnership of more than 30 representatives of industry, workforce, education, labor, and Veteran organizations. The MEWDC founding members, DTE Energy and Consumers Energy, represent more than 80 percent of the utility workforce in the state and have partnered extensively with the OCTE, the state's community colleges, and secondary career and technical education administrators to develop education pathways for electric line technician and gas technician positions. The Workforce Development Agency in the Department of Talent and Economic Development has also been an active partner in the initiative. On December 8, 2015 the OCTE, along with our partners, presented this information to the State Board of Education.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Energy Cluster in career and technical education will use the energy industry fundamentals competencies content standards developed by the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD). Founded in March 2006 as a national non-profit, CEWD is a consortium of electric natural gas, nuclear utilities and their associations, representing more than 90 percent of the skilled energy workforce in the United States.

The current career clusters standards may be found here: [Current Career Clusters](#). The proposed energy content standards may be found here: [National Content Standards for Energy](#).

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve a 17<sup>th</sup> Career Cluster in Energy and adopt the content standards, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 26, 2016.

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