



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

January 26, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Career and Technical Education Standards

The Carl D. Perkins Act aligns Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs with the current trend in education toward uniform standards, a focus on student outcomes, and accountability measures. The Act requires that CTE programs of instruction demonstrate that students receive rigorous instruction in both academic and technical skills and that instruction is delivered through programs of study that prepare students for postsecondary education. These requirements are in support of, and align with, the goals of the Governor and the State Board of Education.

A significant component of the Act is the requirement to measure technical skill achievement through the use of assessments at the completion of a CTE program. To meet this mandate, it is necessary for CTE programs in Michigan to use common standards in CTE programs of instruction.

The 16 Career Clusters include broad statements specifying the foundational knowledge and skills required of learners/workers in order to demonstrate competence in a given career. The knowledge and skills represented within each cluster focus on the holistic blend of technical, academic and employability skills and provide an organizational framework for instruction. They also provide a common language for educators and business and industry partners to describe learner/worker expectations.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Career and Technical Education Standards, as discussed at the January 13, 2009 State Board of Education meeting.

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