

Promoting Career and College Readiness for Students
by addressing the assessment needs of the career and technical education community

WHO MUST TAKE THE ASSESSMENTS

Technical skills assessments are given to **all** students who have:
Completed a career and technical education (CTE) program **OR**
are leaving a program and have completed more than half of the program (at least seven segments).

GENERAL UPDATES

2015-2016 TECHNICAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT COORDINATORS WEB BRIEFING **EVERY MONTH ON THURSDAY FROM 3:30 TO 4:30 P.M.**

Assessment Webinars for 2015-2016

October 1, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, April 7, May 3, June 2

Following are the required assessments for 2015-16. If there are any updates to these assessments, OCTE will communicate that information to the field.

PROGRAMS WITH REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS FOR 2015-16

- Automotive Repair Technician/Maintenance and Light Repair (47.0604)
- Collision Repair Technician (ASE Certified) (47.0603)
- Medium/Heavy Truck Technician (ASE Certified) (47.0613)
- Health Science (26.0102, 51.0000, 51.1000, 51.0707)
- Education and Training (13.0000)
- Business, Management and Administration (52.0299)
- Law and Public Safety (43.0100)
- Marketing (52.1999)
- Finance (52.0800)

NEW REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS FOR 2015-2016

- Drafting and Design Technology/Architectural (15.1301)
- Welding, Brazing, and Soldering (48.0508)

PILOTED ASSESSMENTS FOR 2015-2016

- Information Technology (11.1001, 11.0901)

Upon completion of the new/piloted assessments, please ensure that students, proctors, and teachers take the survey included with the test so that OCTE may gage feedback and make adjustments as needed.

More detailed information on 2015-16 Implemented Assessments can be found on Tip Sheets

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_2629_53970---,00.html

TEST ADMINISTRATION

Refreshers

Deadline for Assessment Testing

All assessment testing should be completed by **Friday, May 13, 2016**, for state reporting purposes. If an extension is needed, please contact Joe Polasek (polasekj3@michigan.gov) so that the exception can be noted.

Enrollment Extraction Dates

In order to accommodate school districts with quarter sessions, semesters, and trimesters, the dates of student demographic data extractions for submittal to test vendors will be made on the following dates:

November 27, January 8, March 25, April 15

New for Review

All Tip Sheets Updated

All assessment Tip Sheets on the OCTE website have been updated for the 2015-2016 school year. They can be found on the OCTE Website under the CTE Skills Assessment web page

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_2629_53970---,00.html

Law Enforcement Assessment- Firefighter Certifications through LARA

OCTE will accept Firefighter I and Firefighter II certifications as valid assessments under the Law and Public Safety career cluster for the 2015-2016 school year. The Firefighter I and II certifications are granted by the Firefighter Training Council, a division of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Students who are Completers within the Law and Public Safety career cluster who are in a Firefighting Program may take the certification test rather than the NOCTI Criminal Justice assessment required for the cluster. For more information, please refer to the Criminal Justice Tip Sheet found on the CTE Skills Assessments web page on the OCTE website

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_2629_53970---,00.html

Keep in mind that because the certification is a two-step process, and if a student has one test result and not the other, the record is dropped and not reported as a completed certification (assessment). Also, if a student failed the certification and passed the standard TSA assessment, the passing score will be used to calculate CPI data.

Information Technology Assessment Update

OCTE has identified assessments for two different CIP codes for piloting this assessment year. The two CIP codes are Networking (11.0901) and Systems Administration (11.1001). These assessments are "Michigan Specific," custom tests developed by NOCTI with input from OCTE and the IT Content Referent Group (CRG). If you are interested in helping to pilot the assessments for Completers within CIP codes 11.0901 or 11.1001, please contact Krishnan Sudharsan (SudharsanK@michigan.gov). Testing will be free of cost to participating schools. Upon completion of the assessment, please ensure that students, proctors, and teachers take the survey included with the test so that OCTE may gage feedback and make adjustments as needed.

Welding – Sense Certification Update

OCTE is waiting to receive more materials from the American Welding Society on the specific test, online test name, etc. These materials should be received soon, and will not adversely effect the ability of teachers to offer the test to their students. OCTE will update the field as soon as the information becomes available.

A Change to the Education Assessment Alternatives

As has been circulated for administrators and teachers alike, OCTE would like to reiterate the change to the alternative assessments for the Education career cluster. In the past (as recently as the 2014-2015 school year), the MME/ACT was used as an alternative to the Professional Readiness Exam (PRE). High school student scores were sent to Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS). However, OPPS was unable to process students' scores because the high school students do not have a Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS) account. A MOECS account is not created until a teacher candidate is applying for a MI teaching certificate. OCTE/OPPS apologizes that we were not able to accommodate these requests. Please note that the MME/ACT alternative will no longer be offered for 2015-16 and beyond. For 2015-2016, WorkKeys is now the only alternative assessment in the Education cluster.

Want more information on technical skills assessments?

www.michigan.gov/octe or contact Joe Polasek at:
Polasekj3@michigan.gov or (517) 335-3066

Compatibility of Online Assessments with Chromebooks, per Vendors

OCTE reached out to all assessment vendors about the compatibility of their assessments with Chromebooks and Google Chrome browsers. This was the feedback OCTE received from each vendor:

ASE - The ASE Student Certification test system was developed for an Internet Explorer environment (IE 8 or higher) with screen resolution set to 1024 x 768 or higher. ASE is not aware of any issues with Chromebooks but have not done extensive acceptance testing.

NOCTI - The NOCTI online system has been and will always be compatible with Google Chromebooks. The online system can be tested on the Chromebooks anytime by completing the following steps:

1. Access the testing site testing.nocti.org
2. Select "Get Computer Ready for Testing"

The system will check computer specifications and browser compatibility and provide a few sample questions.

Precision Exams - Testing platform is 100% compatible with Chromebooks. In 2014-15, data analytics showed that nearly 40% of the exams delivered on our system were actually taken on Chromebooks.

Assessment Changes

NOCTI

- The General Management assessment has been updated and has been released as of September 1, 2015. The cut score will be established in February 2016
- MBAResearch Pricing– the two-year discount that MBA agreed to has expired. Previously, districts were able to purchase two years worth of testing materials for a reduced price. The pricing for the Accelerated Marketing (3-credit) will now be the standard pricing of \$14 (post test) and \$9 (pre test).

ASE (Clarification on pretests)

- Each student is provided two attempts at each test title in a series (automobile, collision or truck) per academic year— once in the Fall semester, once in the Spring semester (for trimesters, there are still only two windows for testing).
- Test assignments made in the Fall semester/test window ONLY may be designated 'pretest.' The pretest option is not available in the Spring semester/test window.
- Regardless of whether or not a test assignment is designated 'pretest', certification is awarded on any 'Pass' result.

Also, one more reminder– Maintenance and Light Repair is an alternative to the Automotive Repair Technician.

A Friendly Reminder– We Are Here To Help!

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself (email and phone listed below) or Valerie Felder (FelderV@michigan.gov). We are happy to field questions and provide the technical assistance needed to answer them; and we try to do it as quickly as possible. As a best practice, when asking questions via email, send them to both Valerie and myself to ensure the quickest turn-around time.

OTHER INFORMATION

- ♦ Teachers who teach the content related to the assessment **should not** be administering the assessment to their students.
- ♦ None of the secondary CTE assessments currently identified in Michigan for federal reporting of CTE program effectiveness have been validated for measuring growth and should not be used as the sole element in educator evaluations at this point. Please see the following link for full policy statement:
- ♦ http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-2629_53970---,00.html.

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