

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

2015-16 TECHNICAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT COORDINATORS WEB BRIEFING **EVERY MONTH ON THURSDAY FROM 3:30 TO 4:30 P.M.**

Assessment Webinars for 2015-2016

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, the 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 the 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

Want more information on technical skills assessments?

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

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 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

Law and Public Safety Firefighter Certifications through LARA

The OCTE will accept Firefighter I and Firefighter II certifications as valid assessments under the Law and Public Safety career cluster for the 2015-16 school year. Please check the Criminal Justice Tip Sheet for more information.

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

Piloting of the two "Michigan Specific" custom assessments for Networking (11.0901) and Systems Administration (11.1001) is continuing this year. If you are interested in helping the OCTE by piloting the test, please contact NOCTI for more information. 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 the OCTE may give feedback and make adjustments as needed. Comments are essential to the vetting process and if no comments are received, the OCTE will be unable to use these CIP-specific assessments in the future. Thank you for your diligence in this matter.

Welding – Sense Certification Update

The OCTE is waiting to receive more materials from the American Welding Society (AWS) 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. The OCTE will update the field as soon as the information becomes available as David MacQuarrie continues to work with AWS to resolve the matter.

WorkKeys Option for Education Assessment

Please note that the MME/ACT alternative will no longer be offered for 2015-16 and beyond. For 2015-16, WorkKeys is the only alternative assessment in the Education cluster. A student must take the Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Writing tests to fulfill the alternative pass option for the Education Cluster. Please refer to the Education and Training Tip Sheet for more information on the WorkKeys alternative, including how to submit and verify student scores.

The link to the OCTE Technical Skills Assessments webpage is listed on Pg. 1 of the Assessment Communiqué.

New For Review

Education Assessment – Reminder for Those Taking the Professional Readiness Exam (PRE)

Students taking the PRE as their technical skill assessment **MUST ENTER** the code **097** when taking the test. This is the only way to ensure that assessment data is received by the OCTE for processing and credit towards Core Performance Indicators for the 2015-16 school year.

A Brief Overview of how the OCTE chooses Technical Skill Assessments/Certifications

Knowing that we have some new additions to our group this year, the OCTE would like to give a brief overview of how technical skills assessments and related industry certifications are identified, vetted, and eventually chosen for implementation.

Once an assessment or certification is identified, the OCTE's Assessment and Accountability Referent Group (AARG) will vet the assessment in a number of key areas:

1. Comparison of the assessment content to the program standards.
2. Consideration of the value of the assessment to postsecondary institutions.
3. Evaluation of the assessment's value to business and industry partners related to the program content standards.
4. Review of the use of the assessment in a "test out" situation.
5. Assess the quality and ease-of-use of the data collection system(s) associated with the assessment.
6. Identification of the assessment cost per student.

The AARG will also convene a group of Subject Matter Experts (SME) to aid in the review process. The SMEs may consist of the Assessment Content Referent Group (ACRG) in place for a specific CIP code or career cluster and may also include educators from the secondary and postsecondary levels along with business and industry professionals in the related field. These educators and industry professionals review the proposed assessment or certification using the criteria listed above and other pertinent factors to determine viability.

Program standards are reviewed as needed to ensure alignment with the needs of business and industry and, as standards change, assessments are revisited to ensure alignment with state standards.

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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