Technical Standards

Technical Standards are knowledge and skill statements about practices and processes used in design, manufacture, installation, and engagement of a material, product, or assembly, and as well, practices and processes related to development, management, and provision of services. Standards represent the entry-level performance of work in a job or occupation. They are developed by Standards Validation Committees comprised of incumbent workers and/or their supervisors, secondary instructors, community college instructors, and CTE Program Specialists. The committee meets for one day under the guidance of a facilitator to identify and validate the knowledge and skills necessary to perform the work. After the Standards Validation Committee meets, a Review Committee examines the document for verbiage, consistency of tone, and technical accuracy. An editor may make grammatical, structural, and stylistic changes; however, modifications will not affect the technical integrity of the document. Once approved and adopted, standards are posted on the CTE website and disseminated to teachers. Note: CTE program standards are aligned with nationally recognized standards when available and appropriate.

End-of-Program (EOP) Assessments

The Arizona Skill Standards Assessment System is a secure, reliable, online test application owned by the State of Arizona and housed in the Department of Education. Districts access the system on the ADE/CTE website to register students for assessments, conduct assessments, and access summary reports. The EOP Assessments are designed for CTE students who are in their final Carnegie Unit of the state-identified sequence of courses for a program. Students have two opportunities to take the test. The Practice Assessment Window allows the piloting of new items and helps teachers identify program areas for improvement. The Final EOP Assessment Window provides student transcripts and certificates base on meeting pass score requirements. Each assessment is 100 multiple-choice items that are aligned with program standards and measurement criteria. Assessment items range from recall and understanding to applying, analyzing, and evaluating in cognitive difficulty.

Pass Scores

Each CTE program is given an assessment **pass score** based on the date of program implementation, proximity of program launch in schools, number of students assessed, and status and history of the test. This evidence-based practice is the outcome of professional, informed judgment regarding what level of test-taker competence constitutes mastery and requires regular monitoring to ensure alignment with stakeholder objectives. Reviewed annually, pass scores for FY15 will be determined in August, and CTEAs will be notified prior to fall 2014 testing.

Super Saturdays and Teacher Institutes

There are ongoing opportunities for CTE teachers to be involved in the development, analysis, and realignment of assessment items to updated standards. Committees comprised of secondary and postsecondary teachers as content experts convene on **Super Saturdays** in January, April, and May and at **Teacher Institutes** in June. Programs featured are identified on the basis of updated technical standards, when the program area last convened, and the number of items currently in the assessment item banks. The expertise of CTE teachers and their engagement in making connections between curriculum, instruction, and assessment has contributed greatly to the advancement of student achievement. In appreciation of their time and expertise, each teacher is awarded a professional development certificate, documenting hours contributed to the improvement of end-of-program assessments.

Proposed Super Saturdays and Teacher Institutes for FY15

- January 24th Super Saturday for Agriculture Programs: review fall 2014 test item analysis and continue to build item banks
- January 31st Super Saturday for Communication Media Technologies Programs: review fall 2014 item analysis results and continue building item banks
- April 18th Super Saturday: realign updated technical standards to test items and continue building item bank
- May 2nd Super Saturday: realign updated technical standards to test items and continue building item bank
- June 17th Teacher Institute: review spring 2015 item analysis results and continue building item bank
- June 24th Teacher Institute: review spring 2015 item analysis results and continue building item bank
- June 30th Teacher Institute: review spring 2015 item analysis results and continue building item bank

   *Featured programs and locations to be determined.

Please contact Judy Balogh (602.542.4155 or judy.balogh@azed.gov) if you have comments or questions.