
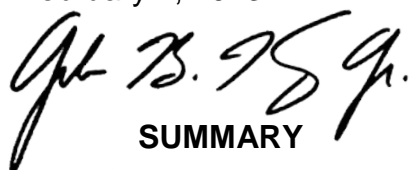




TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Ken Slentz 
SUBJECT: CTE Technical Skills Assessment Review Panel Update
DATE: February 4, 2013
AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

In June 2012 the Board of Regents commissioned a study led by researchers from Cornell and Harvard Universities, to develop a methodology by which selected CTE technical assessments could be shown to be comparable to Regents exams. This is an update on the work of the expert advisory group to date.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information

Proposed Handling

This item will come before the P-12 Education Committee for discussion at the February 2013 meeting.

Background Information

At the June 2012 P-12 Education Committee meeting a study was commissioned with Stephen Hamilton at Cornell University and William Symonds at Harvard to identify 10-25 technical assessment instruments that would determine high school Career and Technical Education students' achievement that are of sufficient quality and rigor to serve in place of a NYS Regents examination. An expert advisory review panel (Attachment A) was convened with members who are knowledgeable about CTE assessment and or about the assessment of academic achievement and employment-related competencies. The panel members will:

- Nominate occupational assessment instruments;
- Discuss nominations and rate their appropriateness;

- Recommend criteria, including coverage of existing state standards, and procedures for determining the suitability of nominated instruments;
- Review and reach consensus on a list of approved instruments and the explanations for the choices; and
- Provide a working definition of “career ready” as it relates to the academic and technical knowledge and skills expected for entry into a post secondary career pathway.

The first meeting of this group took place in New York City on January 10, 2013. The meeting was facilitated by Stephen F. Hamilton, Cornell University, and supported by William C. Symonds, Harvard University. At the meeting a set of working criteria was developed to be used in the initial selection of technical assessment review. Pradeep Kotamraju, Deputy Director of the National Research Center for CTE and graduate students from the University of Louisville, Kentucky will prioritize selected assessments using the criteria and provide the expert advisory panel with the initial group of assessments for review, discussion and final selection.

When the work of the expert advisory panel is concluded, the recommended list of technical assessments will be forwarded to a blue ribbon commission led by the Commissioner and the Chancellor of the Board of Regents. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Career and Technical Education Assessments will examine how other key states are responding to the growing call to prepare students for college and career by explicitly recognizing the role of CTE/career assessments. The Commission will make recommendations to the Board of Regents on assessments of career and technical education (CTE) that students may choose to take in place of one of the currently-required Regents examinations.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the expert advisory panel continue its work to determine which technical assessments should be recommended to the Blue Ribbon Commission along with a methodology to be used for future assessment approvals.

Timetable for Implementation

The CTE Technical Assessment Expert Advisory Panel is scheduled to meet again tentatively in April 2013 to finalize the criteria and agree on the initial set of selected technical assessments for recommendation. It is anticipated that the Blue Ribbon Commission will make its recommendations to the Board of Regents for consideration in June 2013.

CTE Technical Skills Assessment Review Panel
Attendees at January 10, 2013 Meeting

Stephen Hamilton, Professor Associate Director
Bronfenbrenner Center for Transitional Research
Cornell University

William Symonds, Executive Director
Pathways Project
Harvard University

Dr. Gene Bottoms, Senior Vice President
Southern Regional Education Board

John Bishop, Professor
School of Industrial and Labor Relations
Cornell University

John F. Ebersole, President
Excelsior College

Ronald D. McCage, President,
CTECS

Gretchen Koch, Senior Director,
Workforce Development Programs
CompTIA

Pradeep Kotamraju, Deputy Director,
National Research Center for Career & Technical Education

Dane Lin
Business Roundtable

Jessica Mates
Food and Finance High School, NYC

Ken Slentz, Deputy Commissioner, P-12 Education
New York State Education Department

Chuck Szuberla, Assistant Commissioner, School Operations
New York State Education Department

Eric Suhr, Bureau Chief
CTE Team
New York State Education Department