
ARIZONA:

Building a Statewide Skills Assessment System for Career & Technical Education

The Who. The Arizona State University is working in partnership with the Arizona State Department, Corporate Education Consulting, Inc., VTECS, and PITSCO/TFI to establish a statewide skills assessment system that meets the needs for Career and Technical Education in Arizona.

The What. The outcome will ensure industry-validated standards for all career and technical education programs and an online skills assessment delivery system that will serve secondary comprehensive Career and Technical Education, Joint Technical Education Districts, Community Colleges, and Department of Economic Security One-Stop Centers.

The Why. The U.S. Congress has reauthorized (August 2006) Perkins legislation for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs which requires accountability for students' technical skills attainment validated by business and industry. The State of Arizona has also enacted legislation (June 2006) for Joint Technical Education Districts (JTEDS) with accountability through program-specific, industry-validated skills attainment for students.

The How. The Arizona Skill Standards Commission represented by CEOs, Union, Legislature, and Education will verify that valid standards exist, ensure consistent documentation across the state, and work with the business community to provide students with certificates evidencing their skill attainment. Occupational-specific validation committees composed principally of incumbent workers will be assembled to validate standards and measurement criteria for each program area. A concomitant team composed principally of educators will be assembled to adapt, adopt, and/or develop test items related to the standards and measurement criteria for the program areas. A Stakeholders committee represented by JTEDS, comprehensive CTE programs instructors, and CTE administrators will provide input and support for the implementation and sustainability of the assessment system.