Professional Development Session

Sharing the Vision of a
National Item Bank to Support
Career Technical Education Assessment

National Association of State Directors of
Career Technical Education Consortium

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Mystic, CT

Project Background

- Technical skill attainment measurement presents ongoing challenge to states

State Approach	Secondary	Postsecondary
Nonregulatory Guidance	44	34
GPA	4	10
Assessment/GPA	0	5
Program/Degree Completion	3	3
Assmt or Completing Standards	1	0
Mastered Industry Standards	1	0
Course Completion	1	1
Assessment/Program Completion	0	1

Project Activities

- OVAE Commissions Study to assess:
  - Feasibility of national assessment system
  - Types of assessments
  - Cost effectiveness
  - Role of federal government and states

- Study Activities
  - Webinar and state survey
  - Draft Feasibility Report
  - Task force meeting to review options

What is the Vision?

- Provide a system for state leaders with tools needed to provide assessments for technical skill attainment in programs of study.

    Drivers:
    - State-owned and driven
    - Shared resources
    - Flexible, practical, useful
    - Grounded in Career Cluster K&S

Two components
1. Clearinghouse of Existing, Available Tests
2. Item Bank to Build State-Delivered Assessments

Summary of Recommendations: Assessment Clearinghouse

1. Provide online access to a searchable, easily navigable database of industry recognized, valid, and reliable assessments.

2. Cross reference assessments with the SCCI cluster and pathway performance elements.

3. Make clearinghouse accessible to state leadership via subscription service

4. Provide detailed, periodically updated information on test attributes to enable users to select from multiple options.

Summary of Recommendations: Assessment Clearinghouse

5. Develop the training materials and programs needed for state CTE leaders to retrieve information from the clearinghouse. Training topics include, but are not limited to:

- Selecting and retrieving items from the clearinghouse;

- Identifying database security issues; and

- Using assessment information to identify appropriate exams for state use.

Estimated Cost: Clearinghouse

Activity	Low Estimate	High Estimate
Requirements Gathering and RFP Development	$15,000	$30,000
Assessment Cataloging	$100,000	$200,000
Test Management System	$100,000	$300,000
Coordination, Communication and Project Management	$200,000	$400,000
Total Cost of 3 Yr. Development	**$415,000**	**$930,000**

Summary of Recommendations: Item Bank

1. Item bank access will be limited to state officials with authority over CTE programs. The decision over which items that will be drawn from the item bank and how these items are integrated into a test delivery system also will reside with state officials or their designee.

2. Define the test purpose as primarily used to derive summative, end of program tests that indicate student achievement.

3. Use SCCI Cluster and Pathway performance elements as primary source of content definition. Allow for addition of state-identified benchmarks to support flexibility and future extension.

Summary of Recommendations: Item Bank

4.   Rely upon "typical" multiple-choice test items to populate the item bank although allow for some small number of items to include images, charts, or scenarios in the item stem.

5.   Populate the item bank with new items written using state identified resources under the direction of the managing organization and/or by one or more test developers.

6.   Use or contract to build an item bank system that will easily export data to a variety of test delivery systems used by states and state contracted vendors to assemble, deliver, and manage tests.

Summary of Recommendations

7.   Develop the training materials and programs needed for state CTE leaders to facilitate the test development activities needed to derive tests from the item bank and to work with the test delivery system of their choice or of their state's choice. Recognize many states will enact own policies and procedures, but make available to all as a suggested resource.

Estimated Cost: Item Bank

Activity	Low Estimate	High Estimate
Requirements Gathering and RFP Development	$15,000	$30,000
Item Development (approx. 9,000 items)	$1,800,000	$3,150,000
Item Bank System (web application and database)	$50,000	$500,000
Coordination, Communication and Project Management	$200,000	$600,000
Training Materials and Programs for Test Users (State CTE Leaders)	$25,000	$100,000
Technical Assistance (Testing Expertise)	$20,000	$50,000
Total Cost of 3 Yr. Development	**$2,110,000**	**$4,450,000**

*Does not include ongoing/maintenance costs upon release and use

What's the Timeline?

Summer and Fall 2008

- Determine feasibility
- Define design and functionality requirements
- Gauge interest
- Pursue funding and management possibilities

Winter 2008

- Determine go-forward strategy
- Seek needed management and development partner(s)
- Begin initial development of system functionality

Spring 2009

- Begin item development
- Test system functionality
- Collect test information for clearinghouse

Summer 2009

- Continue item development
- Begin item field testing
- Provide clearinghouse

Fall 2009-Summer 2009

- State training on system use
- Continue item development and field testing

2010-2011 School Year

- System available for test development and delivery