Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Academic Office

Career and Technical Education Unit Newsletter

February 2015

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Connecticut Statewide Career and Technical Education Assessment



The Connecticut Statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) Assessment is the most comprehensive state developed assessment system for Career and Technical Education in the nation. With its foundation of alignment with the latest national standards for CTE, this assessment system is designed to measure student proficiency in the Connecticut State Performance Standards and Competencies for CTE. This assessment system includes 21 tested areas (areas of concentration), representing the highest enrollment CTE course categories in Connecticut's secondary schools.

The Connecticut Statewide CTE Assessment is the only system in the nation to include the contextual application of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for reading and mathematics in each of the 21 areas of concentration. The 2015 testing year will feature the new Version IX of the assessment . Revised under the 2015 Connecticut Performance Standards and Competencies, 40% of all test items are focused on the contextual application of CTE competencies with CCSS math and reading competencies.

As required under the Carl D. Perkins legislation, all states are required to assess "Skill Attainment" and the Connecticut Statewide CTE Assessment meets that requirement. Connecticut has exceeded its federal goal for skill attainment for five consecutive years.

Memorandum of Testing Agreement

The CSDE testing procedures, in cooperation with the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI), requires each school to submit a Memorandum of Testing Agreement form signed by the secondary school principal. This agreement specifies the basic guidelines and process for participation in the assessment. Upon receipt of this form, the principal will receive a secured password necessary for securing access to student user codes, and post-testing score reports/data. This form may also be signed electronically and sent back to Dr. Stephen W. Hoag via e-mail at <u>stephen.hoag@ct.gov</u> by February 19, 2015.

Electronic Final Commitment of Concentrators Form (EFCC)

Beginning this year, 2015, the registering of student concentrators by area of concentrator will be done online. The Electronic Final Commitment of Concentrator Form (EFCC) will replace the paper form used up until this year. The secured password sent to each principal after we have received the school's Memorandum of Testing will be necessary to access the system. This password, plus your site code will permit the principal and the school's CTE assessment coordinator to complete the EFCC form that is due on **March 20, 2015**.

Testing Window

The 2015 Connecticut Statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) Assessment will be administered in the test window period, April 20 through May 29, 2015.

Online Testing

As we have for the last six years, we will conduct the 2015 Statewide CTE Assessment online through the QuadNet[™], the online assessment administration system. The specific requirements for online testing will be covered in great detail at each of the seven regional briefing sessions to be held in late March, 2015. It is important that at least one administrator/representative attend these sessions. New procedures in registering student concentrators online and securing access to score reports and data make attendance essential for each school.

Briefing Sessions for the Statewide CTE Assessment

Regional briefing sessions have been scheduled throughout the month of March, 2015, to provide you and your staff with the revised protocols that are critical to the successful completion of the Connecticut Statewide CTE Assessment, including the online components and preparations. All of the briefing sessions are open to your school's staff regardless of location. We encourage you to invite your CTE teachers to these briefing sessions. In order to secure materials necessary for test preparation, at least one staff member from each school must attend a briefing.

In the event of inclement weather, school representatives are encouraged to attend another of the briefing sessions. The schedule is listed below.

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| CTE Assessment Regional Briefing Sessions 2015 | | |
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| Date | Location | Time |
| Tuesday, March 3 | EASTCONN – Hampton | 1:00 pm |
| Wednesday, March 11 | Education Connection - Litchfield | 9:00 am |
| Friday, March 13 | LEARN – Old Lyme | 10:00 am |
| Monday, March 16 | CREC/Coltsville - Hartford | 9:00 am |
| Friday, March 20 | Hillhouse High School – New Haven | 9:00 am |
| Friday, March 27 | Aquaculture School – Bridgeport | 9:30 am |
| Wednesday, March 25 | Middletown – SDE | 1:00 pm |



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CT CTE Web Page

Teaching Financial Literacy To Millennials

April 8, 2015

8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Crowne Plaza, Southbury

Opening Session

"Challenges of Teaching Financial Literacy to Millennials" What unique financial challenges does this generation face and how can we best engage them?

Peter Bielagus, America's Financial Educator, a former financial advisor, delivers keynotes and workshops at colleges, corporations and military bases all over the world.

Peter is the author of two books and has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, PBS, USA Today and many other media outlets. Peter's goal is to improve American lives through financial education.

Workshops will include:

- Challenges of Teaching Financial Literacy to Millennials
- Women and Money
- Teaching Personal Finance Online
- Personal Finance Share Tables
- Banks in Schools
- Finance Career Pathway Programs
- Resources for the Personal Finance Teacher
- Technology and Teaching Personal Finance

Registration: Please visit <u>http://www.crec.org</u>. Click on Events at the top of the page and locate this listing by searching for the title or date. There is a registration fee of \$85.00 which may be paid by check, credit card or purchase order.

For more information contact

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