

Integration of Industry Based Standards Protocols

Rationale:

There are numerous and in some cases competing skill standards within specific industry and industry-based associations. Secondary career & technical education curriculum makes an effort to address these standards and needs a method of sorting and selecting those standards most appropriate to meeting the needs of Alaskan students.

The underlying focus for each program should be an outcome that achieves these goals.

1. Student completion of the selected industry skill standards will result in a skill certification or endorsement from a recognized industry association.
2. Student completion of the selected industry skill standards will result in a competitive preference for entry-level job or apprenticeship placement.
3. Student completion of the selected industry skill standards will result in advanced placement in postsecondary training programs.

Method:

- For each career & technical education “program” or sequence of courses, state and national associations having pertinent skill standards and certifications should be identified. A compiled list of these organizations, in each of the approved program areas should be available to each district. A database of these organizations should be started and maintained.

Selecting Skills Standards Priorities:

1. Alaska based associations or industries using nationally recognized skills standards and/or certifications should have first priority. Partnerships with these organizations to review secondary career & technical education program standards should be developed. AFL-CIO, health care and other industry groups for example, have established skill standards in dozens of occupational areas, and are well represented in the state.
2. A state level review committee should review the standards in each career cluster area with the industry partnership, ensuring that above focus is maintained, and a recommended set of industry standards be developed.
3. Where no state association currently exists, nationally recognized standards should be used with first priority going to industry recognized standards and second priority going to nationally recognized professional organization standards. (E.g. National Standards for Family & Consumer Sciences Education or National Standards for Business Education)
4. Where no nationally recognized standards exist, other state vocational and technical education standards will be used.