



Greetings, CTE Educators and Test Site Administrators:

We hope this message finds you safe and healthy amid the pandemic. The Career and Technical Education Consortium of States (CTECS) welcomes you to the 2020-2021 school year. As in years past, the CTECS staff looks forward to supporting your assessment needs throughout the year.

CTECS has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing flexible options that allow you to instruct and assess in some of the most uncertain times we have ever experienced. We will continue to offer traditional in-school testing at no increased costs. If you cannot test in school, we are offering Fully Automated Testing. If you need help deciding or have questions, as always, we are here for you.



What's New for the School Year (2020-2021)?

Workplace Readiness Assessment (WRA)

- Retakes and pre-tests are now being offered for the WRA.
- Junior concentrators can now take WRA, not just seniors (plus, as always, senior concentrators and seniors in 2nd CTE course).

Technical Skills Assessment (TSA) / Workplace Readiness Assessment (WRA)

- Pre-test dates have been extended to mid-October and reopen during the month of January for qualifying students.

Fully Automated Testing (FAT is CTECS Remote Testing Option)

Difficult situations often produce unique opportunities to improve. After the stay-at-home orders in March, the Idaho State Board of Education waived assessment requirements and CTECS moved quickly to offer remote testing. This school year, we will continue to offer this service while improving on this process.

If you intend to use FAT, please complete a new Test Site Administrator Registration and Agreement Form that pertains specifically to the responsibilities, logistics, and consent for this testing. To learn more, go to:

<https://www.ctecs.org/idaho/fully-automated-testing>

Should you find that our new testing service is implausible for your students, please contact Ken Potthoff at kpotthoff@cteecs.org to discuss other options.

WRA Curriculum Improvements

CTECS rebuilt the WRA and revisited curriculum materials last school year. This year, we are developing new teaching activities by focusing on the *Personal Qualities and Abilities* section, which are the most fundamental and crucial to anyone exploring and joining the workforce. Updated curriculum materials can be found at: <https://wrs.cteecs.org/practice/>.

A Distance-Learning Strategy During COVID-19

As CTECS curriculum materials continue to improve, and because students may not begin the year in your school buildings, or may experience a more disruptive year than past school years, we recognize that teachers are looking for accessible online instructional support. Targeting the foundational skills within your CTE programs in the first part of the year is prudent. CTECS offers curriculum activities online, with quizzes and vocabulary, to keep students focused and on pace. Complete this instruction early in the year, rather than waiting for spring. A more focused WRA approach could provide enough instruction to enable them to do well on the assessment while preparing the context for delivering your technical skills content in the second half of the school year. Pre-test the WRA at the beginning of the year and try to finish post-testing by late fall. This way it takes the pressure off and sets the stage for learning the more complex technical skills in your programs as they, hopefully, rejoin in person. Set the stage with workplace behaviors early, and additional learning opportunities will emerge within the context of your CTE programs.

Middle School Career Interest Development Online Curriculum

CTECS brings a new way to cultivate and develop career interests in middle school. Our standards, descriptors, associated vocabulary exercises, and concise, problem-based learning activities allow students to apply social-emotional learning fundamentals as they begin to explore career possibilities. We will pilot our online course this fall and winter and will provide an implementation plan for you later in the year. If you have connections at the middle school level, especially in the area of CTE instruction or wish to build connectivity between middle and high school and WRA, this course will be important. Click here to visit our middle school page: <https://wrs.cteecs.org/mscareerinterestdev/>.

Important Information for the New School Year

- Testing for the new school year began on August 17, 2020.
- See the [Idaho CTE Educator Portal](#) for FAQs, pricing, testing windows, and creating test tickets.
- A new [Test Site Administrator Registration and Agreement Form](#) and [Purchaser's Contract](#) must be submitted every year.

Closing

CTECS realizes that this is a trying time for educators and students, and we are here to provide the best custom service via our curriculum and testing options. We hope you continue to find our assessments, including pre-tests, post-tests, and retakes to be a great solution. But more importantly, we hope you will continue to emphasize teaching the WRA and TSA to help your students prepare for the world of work as they take the next step. Remember, no matter what career path your students take, the WRA and TSA can only benefit their growth.

If you have any questions, please contact us. Feedback is encouraged. As always, thank you for testing with CTECS.

Stay Safe and Healthy,

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