



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

DATE: March 19, 2010

TO: Community College Presidents
School District Superintendents
Area Education Agency Administrators

FROM: Kevin Fangman, Administrator
Division of PK-12 Education

Roger Utman, Administrator
Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

SUBJECT: Senior Year Plus Proficiency Requirement for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Courses for the 2010-2011 School Year

The Iowa Department of Education continues to receive questions from school districts and community colleges regarding proficiency measures for students who want to access CTE courses for the 2010-2011 academic year through Senior Year Plus programming. The challenge facing educators and administrators is how to determine an alternate but equivalent measure of proficiency for students who were not proficient on the most recent administration of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) or on Iowa Tests of Education Development (ITED).

School districts and community colleges have requested support from the Iowa Department of Education to make fair proficiency determinations for students who were not proficient on the measures listed above. *Due to this request, school districts may work with community colleges to admit students taking career and technical education courses during the 2010-11 academic year based on the probability of success for these students in the postsecondary course(s) for which they desire enrollment.*

The Department of Education will work with school districts and community colleges to develop guidelines or models for the determination of equivalent alternative measures of proficiency provided for in Iowa Administrative Code 281-22.2(2)(b)(1) provided those measures assess proficiency in reading, mathematics and science in order to achieve consistency across the state. These guidelines will be completed by December 30, 2010.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact Jeremy Varner at 515.281.3542 or Jeremy.Varner@iowa.gov.