

Looking Beyond College: *Recognition for Vocational Education*

The Illinois State Board of Education's
Student Advisory Council
Khushi Suri, Chairperson

*“My powers are ordinary.
Only my application brings
me success.”*

-Isaac Newton

Thesis:

The Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council acknowledges a need for recognition and support for student competency in vocational studies. We recommend the creation of a seal that demonstrates excellent preparation for beginning a post-secondary education below a bachelor's degree.

The Illinois State Board of Education will provide leadership, assistance, resources, and advocacy so that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education, and share accountability for doing so with districts and schools.

ISBE Mission Statement

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What we recommend:

- ▶ A seal that can be awarded to or attained by high school students that...
 - ▶ Have excelled in vocational fields
 - ▶ Perhaps completed a job shadow program
 - ▶ Potentially passed a written evaluation
- ▶ Create this program in conjunction with local businesses
 - ▶ Helps determine what skills should be assessed
 - ▶ Ensure that they'll utilize it in the future

Who's Benefitting from the Seal

Students...

- ▶ Provide opportunities after high school
- ▶ The benefits of pursuing the seal of recognition will incentivize more students to pursue CTE
- ▶ Improve economic signaling to firms and educational institutions

Employers...

- ▶ Reduce costs
- ▶ Match employee skills with job requirements
- ▶ Increase employee productivity

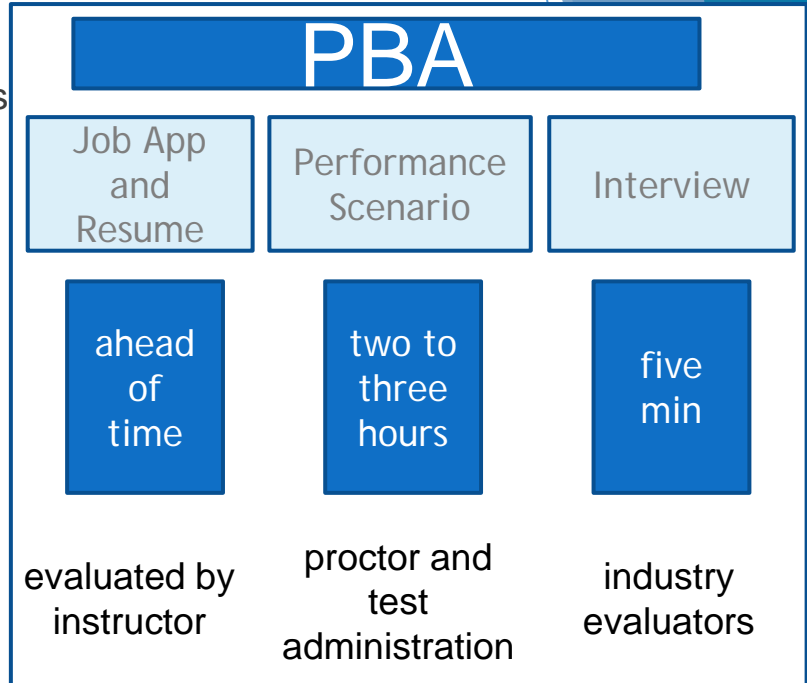
Mississippi

- ▶ Performance-Based Assessments

- ▶ Multiple Choice test to secondary and postsecondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) completers
- ▶ Measures attainment of technical skills
- ▶ Short interview portion

- ▶ Designed to test the core technical courses in a CTE program

- ▶ Indicates minimum level of proficiency in a CTE program



National Career Readiness Certificate

- ▶ Focus is not just on career readiness
- ▶ Different tiers to achievement
- ▶ However...
 - ▶ WorkKeys is no longer offered via the state
 - ▶ Can still be established on a local level

Career and Technical Student Organizations

Key Components

- ▶ Agriculture Education
- ▶ Business
- ▶ Family Consumer Science
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Technology & Engineering Education

There are currently 8 Career & Technical Student Organizations that work with the high school CTE or "vocational" programs in IL

“The whole idea of education is to prepare students for a career of their choice so as to be productive citizens”

Harley Hepner

ISBE Principal Consultant for Agricultural Education

References

- ▶ "What Is the Seal?" *The Seal of Biliteracy*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 June 2015.
- ▶ "Research and Curriculum Unit - Education about Jobs." *Performance-Based Assessment*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 June 2015.
- ▶ "Career & Technical Student Organizations." *Career & Technical Student Organizations*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 June 2015.
- ▶ "What Is the NCRC?" *Wisconsin Job Center*. Wisconsin Educational Trust, n.d. Web. 19 June 2015.
- ▶ "105 ILCS 435/ Vocational Education Act." *105 ILCS 435/ Vocational Education Act*. IL General Assembly, n.d. Web. 19 June 2015.