

Idaho Career & Technical Education FAQs for Assessments

18/19 School Year



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



Career Technical Education Consortium of States ([CTECS](#)) will create and host all pathway TSAs and the WRA.

+WHAT IS THE TECHNICAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT (TSA)?

TSAs are aligned with Idaho industry-recognized standards and measure technical knowledge. The TSA is a nationally validated, industry-based assessment, administered by an approved third party vendor (CTECS, www.ctecs.org). Textbook driven or instructor developed and administered exams do not qualify.

The purpose of the assessment is to document the attainment of industry-based technical knowledge and skills, document evidence of career development and preparation, award Technical Competency Credit, and to provide a continual improvement framework for Idaho CTE programs and instructors.

+WHAT IS THE WORKPLACE READINESS ASSESSMENT (WRA)?

The WRA measures understanding of the career readiness standards in personal, professional, and technical knowledge and skills. The standards are designed to ensure students graduate from high school prepared with skills employers prioritize as the most important.

+HOW DOES THE TSA DIFFER FROM THE WRA?

The TSA is a measure of a student's technical competencies as they relate to a specific CTE program. The WRA measures a student's understanding of workplace expectations, across all program areas.

+WHICH STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE ASSESSMENTS?

TSAs are a Perkins requirement for all CTE Concentrators. Both the TSA and WRA are required for Idaho CTE students. See [Idaho State Board of Education policies and procedures](#) for ICTE.

All CTE seniors enrolled in at least their second CTE course (grades 9-12) should take the WRA. This includes any/all CTE courses, and some students may be enrolled in courses from different CTE program areas.

Any junior/senior concentrator enrolled in a Capstone course is expected to take the TSA. For a list of Capstone courses and their TSAs, refer to the [TSA and Capstones document](#). Testing is required for all program concentrators (100% participation rate). If a student is a senior in a Capstone course, he or she will take both assessments: the TSA and the WRA.

+WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO STUDENTS?

Students must pass the pathway TSA to be eligible for Technical Competency Credit. Students can also demonstrate to employers that they have passed the TSA through a SkillStack® badge.

+WHAT IS SKILLSTACK® AND HOW IS IT LINKED TO THE TSA?

[SkillStack®](#) is Idaho's badging platform that allows educators to validate student learning outcomes and demonstrated skills. Individuals can earn badges in the Capstone course. These badges can lead to college credit (through Technical Competency Credit) and communicate an individual's skills to future employers.

+WHAT IS TECHNICAL COMPETENCY CREDIT?

Technical Competency Credit (TCC) is college credit that students can earn by completing a pathway in high school. Instructors verify that students have mastered the skills aligned to the college course by awarding badges in SkillStack®. Students must also pass an approved TSA and complete a postsecondary assessment, if required. These credits are awarded when the student enrolls in the technical college of his or her choice through a statewide articulation agreement.

For more information, refer to the [TCC FAQ document](#).

+WHAT IF THERE IS NO TSA FOR MY CAPSTONE COURSE?

Not all Capstone courses have a TSA. Some Capstones will take a Pilot Exam (typically in May) until a TSA has been developed. Watch for more details or visit the [Idaho CTECS webpage](#).

+HOW DOES THE STATE USE THIS DATA?

ICTE uses this data to assess program quality and make program improvements. TSA data is also a measure for Perkins grant reporting.

+WHAT INFORMATION IS ON THE ASSESSMENT?

For information on TSA specific content and standards please visit the [Program Standards webpage](#).

+HOW DO I SCHEDULE AND PAY FOR A WRA?

When you administer the WRA by the **end of February**, CTECS will invoice ICTE, and ICTE will pay for all the assessments for eligible students in your school. If administered after February, the school is responsible for all testing costs. ICTE will use ISEE data (Oct/Nov) to identify eligible students and populate test tickets for each school. The ISEE upload may miss some students in at least their second CTE course during the second semester. Schools will work with CTECS to upload those students to meet the deadline (preferably January). **There are no pre-tests or retakes for the WRA.**

+HOW DO I SCHEDULE AND PAY FOR A TSA?

Most pathways have a **pre-test** and these are voluntary for capstone students. For a list of pre-tests visit the [Idaho CTECS webpage](#). Pre-tests can assist teachers in identifying areas of concern regarding the program standards and student learning outcomes. There is no cut score for pre-tests. Pre-tests are only offered through the end of **September** and ICTE will pay for eligible students (i.e. capstone students). Schools will work with CTECS directly to upload pre-test students.

When you administer the **TSA** by the **end of April**, CTECS will invoice ICTE, and ICTE will pay for all the assessments for eligible students in your school. If administered after April, the school is responsible for all testing costs. Schools will use ISEE data that was already uploaded for test tickets.

ICTE will use ISEE data (Oct/Nov/Mar) to identify eligible students and populate test tickets for each school. If your test tickets are inaccurate, **contact ICTE by phone, not email, due to student privacy laws**. Schools are allowed to create test tickets only for pre-tests and TSA retakes.

All pathways have the option of **retakes** for students who did not pass or make the cut score. You may administer a retake at your district’s expense. Students may retake a TSA only once, and it must be scheduled a minimum of 14 days after the original assessment. Schools will work directly with CTECS to upload those students and create test tickets.

+WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS TAKE THE ASSESSMENTS?

Type	Date	Paid By	Test Tickets Created by	Eligible Students
Pre-tests	August – September	\$ ICTE	School	Capstone students
WRA	November – February March - June	\$ ICTE \$ District	ICTE/ISEE	CTE seniors 2nd CTE course (grades 9-12)
TSA	November – April May - June	\$ ICTE \$ District	ICTE/ISEE	Capstone students
Retakes	>14 days after TSA	\$ District	School	Capstone students

The table above is a general guideline for the school year. Watch for more details throughout the year.

+DO I NEED A PROCTOR?

All assessments need a testing proctor. The proctor must be someone other than the teacher.

+WHAT TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS ARE OFFERED?

CTECS offers extended-time accommodations for all assessments for students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) and Students with a Disability (SWD). Please refer to CTECS policies for more details.

+WHERE CAN I VIEW RESULTS?

A statewide and district level summary of each assessment is available on the ICTE website.

Individual student results are also available from CTECS. To obtain the report of these results, contact your Test Site Administrator.

+WHAT ARE THE STATEWIDE GOALS FOR ASSESSMENTS?

- The Perkins goal for students passing the TSA is 67%.
- The statewide goal for students passing the WRA is 75%.

For statewide and district results, visit the [Program Standards webpage](#).

+ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [WRA Guide](#) and [Learning Modules](#)
- [CTE Assessments](#)

+ASSESSMENT DATA AND REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:

[Michael DeVore](#) Phone: 208.429.5509
[Heather Luchte](#) Phone: 208.429.5512

+ PROGRAM STANDARDS, TSA DEVELOPMENT, AND PILOT QUESTIONS:

[Dona Orr](#) Phone: 208.429.5519

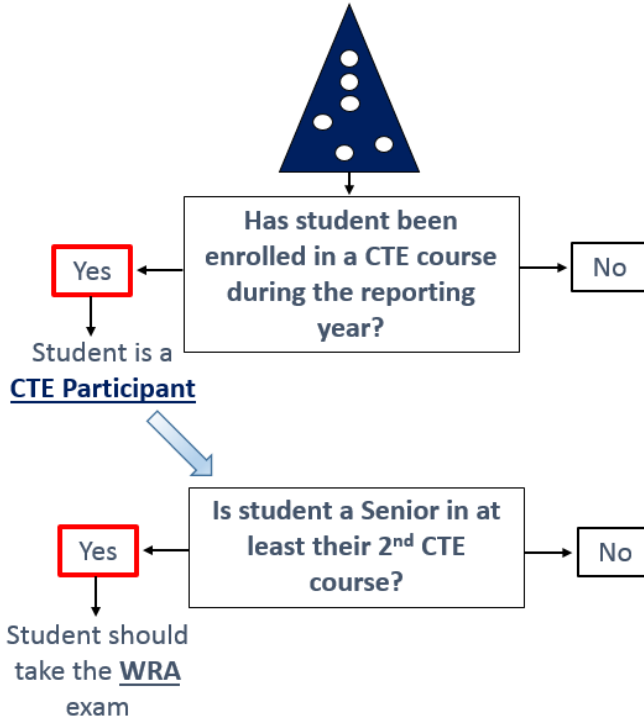
+TECHNICAL OR SYSTEM ISSUES WITH CTECS:

For issues during testing, contact CTECS (local IT staff may be needed):

[Robyn Marshall](#) Phone: 678.226.9000 or 404.994.6534
[Ken Potthoff](#) Phone: 404-994-6534

Cluster Program:

Introductory CTE courses with no Capstone Course.



Pathway Program:

A series of CTE courses leading to a Capstone course.

