



Skill Connect Assessment WebEx Sessions

November 27 and December 10, 2007

Feedback:

- As a member of the Technical Skill Assessment Study Group through OVAE, I endorsed (& it was accepted) that SkillsUSA's new process should be classified as a Gold Standard Assessment.
- Thank you so much! This is so wonderful and you all have done a terrific job with this project.
- Thank you for this project. It will be so useful under Perkins IV.
- Good Price Point per exam
- Audio- Big Plus! Thank you
- Test security sounds similar to the NOCTI and AYES Online assessments
- This is going to be VERY HELPFUL for our programs to meet Perkins IV guidelines at a cost-effective manner.
- For the next workshop, use more videos and less computer animation
- I see this as a Gold Level Assessment for high school leading students toward specific industry certification at the completion of postsecondary.
 - I agree—also, this could be a great tool to get our local programs teaching to industry standards, as well as get participation in SkillsUSA.
 - Exactly.
- FYI: Missouri law going into effect Jan 1 requires all educational videos to be closed or open-captioned.

Questions:

1. Is there an audio portion to the exam? Will the computer "read" what is on the screen for students with testing modifications?
 - a. Yes. Every question will be presented with both text and audio.
2. What will the cost be per student to take the assessment and who will grade the assessments?
 - a. Assessments may be accessed for \$20 each. SkillsUSA members may take assessments for \$5 each.
 - b. The assessments are graded by the computer program, and the LearnMate system enables students to instantly learn of their level of success. A more comprehensive report of the skills demonstrated will also be available to students, teachers and administrators.
3. Is cost per test or for pre/post tests, etc. for school year? What if students want to test in multiple areas?
 - a. Each assessment is \$20 or \$5 for SkillsUSA members. Students may certainly test in multiple areas.
4. Should a student fail the first time, is retesting an option? At the same or different cost?
 - a. Yes, a student may choose to retake any assessment. Every test will be unique, drawing from a robust bank of test questions. The system not only outlines the competencies tested, but how a student performs on each competency. Because all tests and feedback are competency-based, the *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* may be used to assist in targeted preparation.
 - b. The price of a retest is still \$20 or \$5, depending upon SkillsUSA membership.
5. Is there a state-wide contract / membership option where a state agency can cover the cost for all covered technical areas at local level?
 - a. We would certainly be willing to discuss this opportunity.

6. Could businesses sponsor testing for needy schools?
 - a. Absolutely.
 - b. In fact, Skill Connect Assessments were created through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation called Champions for Change. The other part of that grant is to seed SkillsUSA chapters in vulnerable communities and needy schools. These programs will often serve as pilot sites for the assessments. Any interested entity that does not already have an established SkillsUSA chapter may file an RFP by January 15, 2008.
7. How do teachers find out the content or competencies being tested to better prepare their curriculum?
 - a. Skill Connect Assessments will align with the industry-identified standards and competencies published in *SkillsUSA Championships: Technical Standards (most recent edition)*.
8. Can we get our technical committees to use this at NLSC to validate the test and verify the correct level of difficulty?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. In fact, the technical committees have been intimately in the identification of standards and competencies and the development of questions to appropriately measure technical skills and knowledge.
 - c. The competencies used in the Skill Connect Assessments are the same competencies outlined in the technical standards and used at the SkillsUSA Championships®.
9. Will there be any remediation modules available for students who test below acceptable levels?
 - a. Remediation levels may be available in the future, but all assessments are based on SkillsUSA technical standards.
 - b. Instructors should work with students to ensure they can reach those standards and competencies. Upon completion of assessments, students will receive skills gap analysis reports to help them understand which skills and knowledge they need to work on. This report is included as part of the value received through the Skill Connect Assessments.

10. Are the tests available for industry members to view?
 - a. **Industry representatives** may contact SkillsUSA to receive a temporary license to view the assessments.
11. Can instructors view the assessments prior to purchasing them for students?
 - a. Instructors may have access to sample questions, but full exams will not be available for instructors to preview.
12. Can Perkins IV funds be used to purchase Skill Connect Assessments?
 - a. According to a state department of education CTE director, the answer is “absolutely.”
13. Were one of the associations approving of this process the National Association of Career and Technical Education State Directors?
 - a. The National Association of Career and Technical Education State Directors has been involved in the development of our Skill Connect Assessments. Executive Director Kim Green and two State CTE Directors sit on our Technical Advisory Committee. Additionally, our original research that has guided the assessment development process gained insight from 32 state CTE leaders representing 30 states.
14. What is the base line for passing the assessments? Does it vary by assessment?
 - a. The baseline for passing assessments is determined by the technical committee of industry representatives for each assessment area. A score of 70-80 is a common baseline for most assessments.
 - b. Each assessment may have a different baseline for passing, as determined by the respective industry representatives.
15. Is there a list of all assessments that will be made available?
 - a. The list of all assessments that will be made available is posted on our website, www.workforcereadysystem.org.