

**OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**May 17-18, 2012**

**OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION**

34. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To allow school districts, upon approval from the Office of Career and Technical Education, to offer ICT I in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, ICT II in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and STEM in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade

On April 18, 2012, the Commission on School Accreditation approved the request from the Office of Career and Technical Education to allow school districts, upon approval from the Office of Career and Technical Education, to offer ICT I in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, ICT II in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and STEM in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**Proposal from the Office of Career and Technical Education  
Three Course Sequence beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Approved by the Commission on School Accreditation April 18, 2012**

The Office of Career and Technical Education requests that school districts, upon approval from the Office of Career and Technical Education, be allowed to offer ICT 1 in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, ICT 2 in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and STEM in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The Office of Career and Technical Education has received written requests from several districts asking that they be allowed to teach this three course sequence beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

To teach this sequence beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> grade the school district will be required to submit a written request to the Office of Career and Technical Education. Once the request has been submitted to the Office of Career and Technical Education, a site visit will be conducted to determine the district's capacity to properly implement the request.

Issue	Justification
<b>Common Core Standards</b>	<p>1. Allowing districts to teach the sequence of technology courses beginning with ICT 1 in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade will aid the district's preparation for common core state standards (CCSS) implementation. The information below from the CCSS document addresses the issue of student's use of technology in CCSS implementation.</p> <p><b>From the Common Core State Standards Document:</b></p> <p><b>Students Who are College and Career Ready in Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, and Language</b></p> <p><i>The description that follows is not a standard but instead offers a portrait of students who meet the standards set out in the CCSS document. As students advance through the grades and master the standards the CCSS states:</i></p> <p><i>They use technology and digital media strategically and capably. Students employ technology thoughtfully to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use. They tailor their searches online to acquire useful information efficiently, and they integrate what they learn using technology with what they learn offline. They are familiar with the strengths and limitations of various technological tools and mediums and can select and use those best suited to their communication goals.</i></p>
<b>Computer and Technology Literacy Skills and Attainment</b>	<p>Allowing the sequence of courses to be taught beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade will enhance technology skills in middle school to allow students to plan for advanced class work in high school.</p>

	<p>According to numerous research reports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Middle school is a time of self-exploration and learning a broad range of subjects, which prepares a student for high school and beyond. Middle-school students should have several years of computer learning and be comfortable on a computer system. Skills developed during this period act as a base for more in-depth computer training later on.</li> <li>2. Digital technology has become pervasive in our everyday life. Exposing middle school students to technology-based activities begins to prepare them for future success with technology in their education and career. Technology activities also provide many opportunities to enhance curricular learning with 21st-century skills, such as media literacy and career and life skills.</li> </ol>
<b>Pathways to Success</b>	<p>As districts implement Pathways to Success, Students must identify a Program of Study and develop an individual career and academic plan by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The revisions in the ICT 1, ICT 2, and STEM curriculum give school districts additional time to help students make good academic choices in the creation of their iCAP. Planning beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade through ICT 1 will make the planning process in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade more meaningful to the student and will allow the student to develop an iCAP based on sound educational guidance.</p>
<b>STEM</b>	<p>STEM education is a focal point in the discussion around reauthorization of ESEA. By exposing more students to STEM education in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students will be able to make educated choices for classes throughout high school that prepare the student for a career in a STEM related area. Also, this will allow the school district to offer additional advanced classes for students at the high school level that will increase college and career readiness skills.</p>