OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 21, 2016

OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

03.   Action: Approval of National Industry Certifications to be used in the acceleration component of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Scope of Project: Beginning in school year 2015-2016, schools (and districts) with a grade 12 will have 11 components totaling 1,000 points to determine their performance classification. According to Business Rule 9.2, the acceleration component (50 points) refers to the percentage of students taking and passing the assessment associated with the accelerated courses such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), or SBE-approved industry certification courses.

As outlined in the State Board of Education Strategic Plan, a Statewide Career Readiness Taskforce was formed in March of 2015. Based on recommendations from the Career Readiness Taskforce and the Career and Technical Directors Advisory Committee, the following industry certifications are being recommended for approval.

1.   National Restaurant Association Pro Start Certification
2.   National Center for Construction Education and Research Certifications
3.   National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence
4.   Information Technology Certifications – (A) Strata and (B) Microsoft Technology Associate
5.   Energy Industry Fundamental Certificate
6.   American Society for Transportation and Logistics Global Logistics Associate (GLA) Certificate

This item references Goals 1 and 2 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.*

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

National Certification Back-up Information

National certifications are exams available for students in areas that will lead to work opportunities and/or articulated credit.

1. *National Restaurant Association Pro Start Certification*

   The ProStart® National Certificate of Achievement (COA) is an industry-recognized certificate that signifies a strong foundation in the basic management and culinary skills considered critical to success by industry leaders. This means that a credentialed ProStart graduate is cross-trained in all aspects of a restaurant's operations. A student who has earned the Pro Start certification has demonstrated a commitment to and knowledge of the industry, reducing turnover and training costs.

2. *National Center for Construction Education and Research Certifications*

   NCCER offers a complete series of entry level written assessments as part of its National Craft Assessment and Certification Program (NCACP). These assessments evaluate the knowledge of an individual in a specific craft area, such as Carpentry, Electrical and Masonry. All assessments are based upon the NCCER Curriculum and have been developed in conjunction with Subject Matter Experts from the industry. These industry credentials give employers confidence in the craft professional's skill, knowledge, and desire for continuous professional development. They also provide the craft professional with industry-recognized credentials to help build upon their career in construction.

3. *National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence*

   The ASE Student Certification program is specially designed to evaluate and certify students who are near the end of their studies in the areas of Automobile Service and Collision Repair & Refinishing on the high school level. The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) developed the exams in partnership with Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES), National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), and SkillsUSA. For students, ASE Student Certification can be thought of as the first step in building a career as a service professional by providing them with their first industry-recognized certification through ASE.

4. *Information Technology Certifications – (A) Strata and (B) Microsoft Technology Associate*

   Strata IT Fundamentals - The exam covers the explanation of technology and computer hardware basics, compatibility issues and common errors, software installation and functions, security risks and prevention. The exam will also

assess the candidate's knowledge of Green IT and preventative maintenance of computers.

Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) – This examination covers Windows Operating Systems Fundamentals, Windows Server Administration Fundamentals, Networking Fundamentals and Security Fundamentals. MTA is for people new to technology and who need to validate their knowledge of fundamental concepts before moving on to higher level certifications.

5. **Energy Industry Fundamental Certificate**

The Energy Industry Fundamentals Certificate aligns with Tiers 4 and 5 of the Energy Competency Model developed by the Center for Energy Workforce Development and the U.S. Department of Labor. It covers such basics as emerging principles and concepts that impact the energy industry; compliance with safety and health procedures; how electric power and natural gas generation, transmission, and distribution work; a range of entry-level energy careers; and "hot topics" in energy.

6. **American Society for Transportation and Logistics Global Logistics Associate (GLA) Certificate**

The Global Logistics Associate (GLA) is a nationally recognized certification program that acknowledges the completion of rigorous coursework in logistics and supply chain for entry level positions. This certification program focuses on the general knowledge of transportation/logistics and the associated functions necessary for the delivery of goods. Subject areas for the GLA – Workplace Essentials, Supply Chain Management, Transportation Management, Warehouse Management, Computer Systems, and Safety Awareness.