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SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

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GOVERNOR

December 12, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Public School Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and District Test Coordinators

**FROM:** Christopher N. Ruszkowski, Secretary of Education

**RE:** Statewide Adoption of Precision Exams for Career and Technical Education Courses

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The Public Education Department (PED) is pleased to announce the statewide adoption of Precision Exams for Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. These exams will expand opportunities for students to earn industry recognized certifications and to demonstrate competencies for graduation through their program of study as districts and charter schools have requested.

The attached list of adopted Precision Exam titles will be available at no cost to districts, for administration starting Spring 2019. Districts offering courses aligned to the identified course codes will be required to provide this assessment.

In addition to the adopted state list, discounted pricing for site licenses is available, which provides access to over 150 additional certification exams in the Precision Exams system. For those currently licensed to administer Precision Exams, adjustments will be made to site-license pricing, and prorated credits will be issued, based on time remaining on the existing license.

## **Supporting Your CTE Program**

Precision Exams offer many benefits to students and to education professionals. Perhaps most importantly, these subject exams allow educators and students to assess how well the student has learned relevant course content. Exam scoring is timely and completed as soon as a student finishes and submits the exam. Immediately following completion, the teacher as well as the student will see if the student earned a qualifying score.

When a student's performance is above a nationally established qualifying score, the student earns a certificate. Many of these certificates are widely recognized by industry. The certificate includes specific information about the industry standards, so a student can share it with a potential employer as proof of mastery, even if the employer is not familiar with Precision Exams. Employers can also confirm the veracity of the certificate, if desired.

On the reporting side, Precision Exams has a suite of role-based reports. Teachers have immediate access to reports that show how their students are performing. School-level administrators have access to reporting for their entire school, and district-level administrators are able to see results for their entire district.

Precision Exams also has a variety of student report options. Any eligible administrator can facilitate printing of a physical certificate. Each student has a record stored within the Precision Exams system that includes all of their exam attempts and certificates.

## **Precision Exam Statewide Stakeholder Introduction**

PED and Precision Exams will engage educators in two phases:

**Phase One:** PED and Precision Exams will hold two introductory webinars to kick off the initiative and answer general questions. School administrators, CTE Directors, and District Test Coordinators are encouraged to participate. There are two opportunities to attend.

- Monday, Dec 17, 2018 at 3:30 PM MST
- Wednesday, Dec 19, 2018 at 9:00 AM MST

Please register for the date and time that works best for you:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/1846026542353986818>

**Phase Two:** Precision Exams will provide virtual technical trainings for administration of the exams from January through March, 2019. These trainings are targeted toward CTE teachers and District Test Coordinators. Exams are taken on a secure web-based platform that does not require installation, downloads, or updates.

For questions on PED's Precision Exams adoption, please contact the Director of Assessment, Lynn Vasquez, at [Lynn.Vasquez@state.nm.us](mailto:Lynn.Vasquez@state.nm.us) or the Director of the College and Career Readiness Bureau, Elaine Perea, Ph.D., at [Elaine.Perea@state.nm.us](mailto:Elaine.Perea@state.nm.us).

(Enc.) New Mexico Adopted Precision Exams