

2010-2011 Student Occupational Competency Testing Program



MANDATORY USE OF THE ONLINE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR METALWORKING SKILLS TESTS – LEVEL 1

For the 2011-2012 school year, BCTE is once again mandating the use of NIMS Level I online tests as the acceptable occupational competency assessment for concentrators anticipated to graduate from career and technical education programs. The NIMS assessments are drawn from industry-validated metalworking standards. Both performance and theory (written) assessments are developed and piloted by the industry. Students enrolled in the following approved programs are required to use the NIMS Level I credential tests:

- 48.0501 Machine Tool Technology/Machinist
- 48.0503 Machine Shop Technology/Assistant
- 48.0507 Tool and Die Technology/Technician
- 48.0599 Precision Metal Working, Other
- 48.9999 Precision Production, Other

The BCTE and NIMS have partnered to provide NIMS testing in eleven Level I metalworking credential areas. This includes both performance and theory exams. These certification areas include:

1. Measurement, Materials and Safety
 2. Job Planning, Benchwork, and Layout
 3. Manual Milling
 4. Manual Turning Between Centers
 5. Manual Turning with Chucking
 6. Manual Surface Grinding
 7. Manual Drill Press Operations
 8. CNC Turning: Programming Setup and Operations
 9. CNC Milling: Programming Setup and Operations
 10. CNC Turning: Operator
 11. CNC Milling: Operator
- ← **ONLY ONE OF THESE TESTS CAN BE COUNTED TOWARD THE PENNSYLVANIA SKILLS CERTIFICATE**

PDE ESTABLISHED REQUIREMENTS FOR NIMS

In order to achieve a Pennsylvania Skills Certificate, a student must pass **FOUR** or more credentialing tests before graduation, with at least **THREE** from numbers 3-11 from above.

In order to achieve a Certificate of Competency, a student must pass **THREE** or more credentialing tests before graduation, with at least **TWO** from numbers 3-11 from above.

In order to achieve the Basic Level, a student must pass **TWO** or more credentialing tests before graduation, with at least **ONE** from numbers 3-11 from above.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education and NIMS both recognize the *Measurement, Materials and Safety* and *Job Planning, Benchwork and Layout* tests as being Basic Skills tests as opposed to Machining skills tests. **Therefore, only one of these two tests can be counted towards the Pennsylvania certificates.**

ONLINE TESTING

The code for Pennsylvania students is **EC49**. This code is to be used only for secondary students who are part of this statewide testing program. Instructors are NOT to use this code for their own use or for adult students.

The knowledge exam will be administered locally through the use of the NIMS online testing system. Testing Coordinators or instructors must register **ALL** students taking the NIMS Level I credential tests as part of the Student Occupational Competency Testing Program via the NIMS website. The specific promotion code, EC49, and a valid PAsecureID must be used to register via the NIMS online testing system in order for testing costs to be incurred by PDE. The Pennsylvania Department of Education will assume the costs of NIMS tests, test scoring and test reporting services. Costs are automatically assumed by PDE when using this code and the PAsecureID.

Costs are **not** covered by PDE for individual student candidates who wish to receive NIMS credentials indicating their successful completion of the exams. This is voluntary on the part of the individual student. A one-time registration fee of \$40 per individual applies. This fee will apply to the cost of all credentials earned by that student.

Instructors who are interested in taking any of the NIMS credential tests for their own certification **CANNOT** use this promotion code.

PERFORMANCE TESTING

Performance tests will be administered locally by each school in accordance with the NIMS policies and procedures as contained in the *Procedures Manual for NIMS Credentialing Program Machining Level I & II*. The performance portion requires the machining of a part in accordance with the NIMS specifications for that respective credential area. The performance will be evaluated locally using the above procedures. Costs of materials and supplies required for the performance portion of the test are the responsibility of the school.

COST

PDE will cover the initial cost of the test for all secondary concentrators in approved career and technical education programs who are anticipated to leave school at the end of the current school year in the ten NIMS Level I Machining Skill credential areas. NOTE: Costs are not covered by PDE for students who wish to receive NIMS credentials indicating their successful completion of the exams. This is voluntary on the part of the individual student. A one-time registration fee of \$40 per individual applies. This will cover the cost of all credentials earned by that student.

REPORTING

The exam results will be provided electronically to the sponsoring institution. Reports will also be provided to PDE. Site coordinators are responsible for submitting NIMS test results to Penn State Greater Allegheny.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

James Wall, Deputy Director, National Institute for Metalworking Skills, Inc., is the contact for this Pennsylvania testing program. He can be reached at (703) 352-4971 x222 or visit the NIMS website at www.nims-skills.org. The National Institute for Metalworking Skills, Inc. is a nonprofit organization formed to support the development of a skilled workforce for the metalworking industry.