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TO: Local School System Superintendents

FROM: Jack Smith, Chief Academic Officer 

DATE: June 5, 2015

SUBJECT: Expanding Technology Education Choices for Students

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is expanding options available for students to fulfill the technology education graduation requirement. Traditionally, students completed their technology education requirement by passing an MSDE approved course that focused on engineering design and development. This option is still available for students. Recognizing the computational thinking skills and computing practices required of technologically literate students, MSDE is including selected computer science-based courses as another option to complete the technology education requirement.

There are two approaches school systems can use to identify courses that will allow students to fulfill their technology education graduation requirement.

1. School systems can offer students any of the MSDE preapproved engineering design or computer science-based courses listed in the table below.

MSDE Preapproved Courses for Technology Education Graduation Credit	
Engineering Design-Based Courses	Computer Science-Based Courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Technology and Engineering Educators Association Foundations of Technology • Project Lead the Way Introduction to Engineering Design* • Project Lead the Way Principles of Engineering* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring Computer Science • Foundations of Computer Science* • Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles

*Identifies courses in a Career and Technology Education Program of Study. School systems must adhere to the Career and Technology Education completer program requirements.

2. School system leaders can identify additional courses that meet requirements by completing the MSDE curriculum alignment review process for technology education. This process includes submission of the appropriate completed curriculum alignment rubric (see attached rubrics) and associated documents from the school system to MSDE for review. If the course meets or exceeds all components of the rubric, students may take the course to fulfill their technology education graduation requirement.

Since this is the first issuance of these rubrics, we are accepting feedback through July 17, 2015. Once all feedback is received, a workgroup will be convened to refine the rubrics. These rubrics are considered dynamic documents and will be updated as curricula evolve. The proposed options will expand opportunities for Maryland students and ensures that Maryland remains a national leader in the evolving field of technology education.

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If you have any questions or feedback on the rubrics please contact Tiara Booker-Dwyer, Career and Technology Education Program Specialist, via email at tiara.booker-dwyer@maryland.gov.

Attachments:

- Technology Education State Curriculum Alignment Rubric for Engineering Design-Based Courses
- Technology Education State Curriculum Alignment Rubric for Computer Science-Based Courses

c: Assistant Superintendents of Instruction
Local Directors of Career and Technology of Education
Supervisors of Technology Education
CTE Staff Members