

# CLARIFICATION ON NOCTI/NIMS WAIVER PROVIDED BY: DR. LEE BURKET

## Act 136 of 2020

*(i) The Secretary of Education may waive the NIMS assessment and the NOCTI exam on a school-wide basis or for a specific career and technical education program provided by a school entity based on the recommendations of directors of career and technical education programs under 22 Pa. Code Ch. 339 (relating to vocational education). The recommendations shall account for the length of time a career and technical center was open for in-person student instruction and the subject matter of the program affected.*

The waiver is authorized through state regulation. The state regulation allows schools to make a decision locally if they do not want to administer NOCTI and NIMS assessments.

**The application is due April 5, 2021.**

A school can request a schoolwide waiver or can request to waive testing in one or more programs while still testing in other programs.

For example, if the school wishes to use the NIMS test but not the NOCTI test, the school would submit a waiver by program indicating which programs an assessment will not be used.

The review process for a waiver, is BCTE will review the request. According to the regulation, we must consider the amount of time a **student has been provided in-person instruction**. We also review the justification in the application. After the BCTE review, we take recommendations to the Deputy Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education. We discuss our recommendation to **approve or disapprove** a waiver application. The Deputy Secretary then takes a recommendation to the Secretary of Education.

**NOCTI has two components (computer, performance). A waiver request is for the entire test not for a component.**

If a waiver is approved, the school can still decide to administer the computer component. **PDE will pay for the computer component.** The data are used locally for instructional purposes. Data are not reported to or used at the state.

The school district's school board or the CTC joint operating committee must approve the school submitting a request to waive the use of the assessments.

**The NOCTI/NIMS testing window has been extended to the end of June 2021.**