

Public Comments
Information Technology Standards

Information Technology Exhibit 1

Date Submitted: November 6, 2015

Lisa Wiese, Educator

1. The old pathways have academic classes where .5 credits of relevant academic coursework can be counted toward students' 2-credit concentrator status. Will this option still be available with the new pathways?

2. What dual-credit classes may be used in the pathways. None were listed in the proposed pathway.

Information Technology Exhibit 2

Date Submitted: November 10, 2015

Kristina Sage, Educator

Introduction to Information Technology indicator #IT9 Careers in the IT area are changing often so this is an important area to cover. I really like IT 9.4 -- we need to emphasize the soft skills. This is an area that has been highlighted by industry.

Information Technology Exhibit 3

Date Submitted: November 12, 2015

Gary Shawd, Industry Representative

At Midcontinent Communications, and at most other businesses in Sioux Falls, we have an extremely difficult time finding people to fill our technology positions. The demand for these positions is far outpacing the number of students that are graduating with an IT degree. Our biggest struggle is with Software Developers. There are several companies in Sioux Falls that are rapidly expanding their programming staff, and there are not enough people to fill the positions. We end up swapping Developers from one company to the next.

My first thought was that the people graduating with a degree in Software Development were leaving the state, since their skills are in demand all over the country. I found that at STI 82% of the IT graduates stay in South Dakota, and that 79% stay in the Sioux Falls area. The issue is not that they are leaving, but there is simply not enough people graduating with the skills we need. We need more young adults to get into the program.

The standards change a giant step in the right direction. The simplification of the courses and the focus on exposing the students to the different areas of IT will definitely help. This will hopefully lead to more schools creating an IT program and getting more students interested in a career in IT.

For us, this has reached a critical point. My plans for next year include contracting with a company that will provide the development hours we need using contract programmers from other

countries. This pains me considerably, and I would much rather keep the jobs in SD, but the shortage of Developers and the high turnover that this creates leaves me few other choices. Thank you.