**EDUCATION INITIATIVES** **INFORMATION SHEET**

**National Curriculum Standards**

The National Curriculum Standards for Business Administration provide insight into what business leaders view as important to the success of employees at various levels and in various specialties. These standards define the content for the respective Career Cluster®. They inform teachers, administrators, and curriculum developers as to what should be taught. Educators, then, take the standards and determine how to deliver the content (instructional strategies) and how to design the programs and courses.

**DECA Supports National Curriculum Standards**

Knowledge and skills defined in the National Curriculum Standards and Career Clusters® are infused in DECA programs. For example, the certification standards in DECA’s School-based Enterprise Certification Program are designed to directly support the teaching and learning of the National Curriculum Standards.

DECA’s Competitive Events Program also directly aligns with Career Clusters® and National Curriculum Standards. Each role-play and case study are developed using performance indicators which directly link to the knowledge and skill statements that comprise the Career Clusters® and National Curriculum Standards frameworks.

**Performance Indicators**

Each performance indicator, selected from the National Curriculum Standards is assigned a curriculum planning level on a continuum of instruction ranging from simple to complex.

Performance indicators are selected from instructional areas at the prerequisite (PQ), career-sustaining (CS) and specialist (SP) curriculum planning levels. For the Principles of Business Administration Events, the specialist-level performance indicators will only be used at ICDC. Access the performance indicators at <http://www.deca.org/high-school-programs/high-school-competitive-events/>.

**21st Century Skills Framework**

21st century skills are a series of skills and abilities that employers seek in their employees. The framework presents a holistic view of 21st century teaching and learning that combines a discrete focus on 21st century student outcomes (a blending of specific skills, content knowledge, expertise and literacies) with innovative support systems to help students master the multi-dimensional abilities required of them in the 21st century.

In order to succeed in today’s workplace, employees must excel in the 4Cs:

1. Critical thinking and problem solving
2. Communication
3. Collaboration
4. Creativity and innovation

**DECA Supports 21st Century Skills**

DECA understands that 21st century skills are important to college and career success. DECA members develop 21st century skills through their participation in DECA activities, such as competitive events, educational conferences, corporate partner challenges, educational publications, school-based enterprises and more. Because DECA activities are usually project-based and problem-based, DECA members use high order thinking skills and develop key competencies in the areas of critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration and creativity and innovation.

**Common Core Standards**

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers.

**DECA Supports Common Core**

DECA’s Comprehensive Learning Program provides robust opportunities to support student learning of Common Core standards in English Language Arts & Literacy and Mathematics. For example, DECA members participating in the Accounting Applications Series Event will be developing their mathematics skills, while members writing research reports for the Business Operations Research Events will be developing their English Language Arts & Literacy skills. DECA advisors are encouraged to collaborate with core teachers to develop classroom activities that infuse rigorous and relevant learning into classroom instruction in both classes.

DECA has created crosswalks to help teachers document which Common Core Standards are developed through student participation in DECA’s Competitive Events Program. For example, one Common Core standard in English Language Arts & Literacy is, “Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.” This standard can be developed through participation in DECA’s role-playing and case study events.

**DECA Supports Project Based Learning and Authentic Learning**

* DECA activities are in the context of real business
* Students engage in real, community and business-based projects
* Learning becomes student-centered