
Automotive Technology Curriculum Standards

The Background:

Curriculum frameworks are mandated by Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards of the State Board of Education (Section 0520-01-03-.05, State Curriculum, Requirement D).

National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) is the certifying agency for Tennessee automotive programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels. The courses submitted with this item, entitled Maintenance and Light Repair I, II, III, and IV, align to a shift in the industry standards to a focus at this level on general, light maintenance repair from a focus on specialized automotive technology repair. The alignment with the national certifying agency will permit continued dual credit and dual enrollment at the post secondary level.

The Maintenance and Light Repair courses prepare students for entry into maintenance and light repair in the automotive industry. Students explore career opportunities and requirements of a professional service technician. Content emphasizes beginning transportation service skills and workplace success skills. Students study safety, tools, equipment, shop operations, basic engine fundamentals, and basic technician skills. Upon completing the Maintenance and Light Repair courses, students may enter the automotive service industry as an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certified Maintenance and Light Repair Technician.

NATEF has called the new standards “one of the most significant changes to the program in the organization’s history. The update to the NATEF standards used to accredit automotive training programs at the secondary and postsecondary school level reflects the changing needs of the automotive industry for entry-level technicians.”

“The new NATEF model establishes three levels of accreditation: Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR); Auto Service Technology (AST), and Master Auto Service Technology (MAST). The differences at each level are reflected in the number of tasks, number of instructional hours and the instructor qualifications. Each level builds on the previous one and covers all major automotive systems, but to different depths of learning.”

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of the standards on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.