LINKAGE SYSTEM❶ PROJECT AGREEMENT

The signatures below indicate that a **designated academic teacher** has been approved and agrees to work with the Virginia Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education Services, over the next three-to-five years in the development of a crosswalk correlation of the career and technical education competencies to the Standards of Learning. All parties agree to the following:

❶ The academic teacher's name will be placed in a database and used on a periodic basis to consult with career and technical education teachers on *The Linkage Systemā Project.*

❷ Curriculum meetings will be two days in length.

❸ The established reimbursement policy that was defined in Supts. Memo 94 will be the basis for all reimbursements until changed by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

❹ This agreement can be terminated by either of the said parties through a written request to the Virginia Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education Services. At such time the academic teacher's name will be removed from the database.

I. **PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR <u>EACH</u> TEACHER TO BE ENTERED INTO THE DATABASE.**

Teacher's Name _____

School Division _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

_____
City   State   Zip Code

School Phone _____ School FAX _____
                  Area Code   Area Code

School E-Mail _____ Home E-Mail _____

Summer Address _____

_____
City   State   Zip Code

Summer Phone _____ Summer FAX _____
                  Area Code   Area Code

Social Security Number _____
                    (Needed for reimbursement purposes)

II.   SCHOOL PARTICIPATION STATUS (please check appropriate answer)

_____ First time school division has participated in
project or

_____ This teacher's name should be added to the database
accordingly:

_____ As a replacement for _____
(previous teacher's name)

_____ As an additional name from school division

Academic Content Area: English_____ Mathematics_____ Science_____
(Check one)

II.   REQUIRED SIGNATURES

_____
Teacher's Signature

_____   _____
Please Print Name   Date

_____
Principal's Signature

_____   _____
Please Print Name   Date

_____
Superintendent's Signature

_____   _____
Please Print Name   Date

**Please make two copies of this form (one for the school division and
one for the career and technical education administrator). Return the
original no later than July 6, 2001 to:**

**Sharron K. Glasscock
Virginia Department of Education
Career and Technical Education
P.O. Box 2120
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120**

or FAX to: 804/371-2456

THE V-TECS LINKAGE SYSTEM❶ OVERVIEW
A Process to Enhance Workforce Quality and Improve Academic Performance

The V-TECS Linkage process is designed to further Virginia's efforts to correlate career and technical Standards of Learning and career and technical education competencies. The process links Virginia's content with V-TECS/Snyder Basic/Essential Skills Taxonomy, developed by Dr. Lester Snyder at Arizona State and validated by 15 V-TECS member states.

The Taxonomy was designed to provide a common, unambiguous academic vocabulary to analyze test and other curricular materials. The specific academic skills listed in the Taxonomy are not designed as instructional/curriculum content, but small conceptual elements. Given its design, the Taxonomy can be used to analyze not only occupations, but instructional concepts and competencies. Several states have already used the Taxonomy to analyze instructional materials.

The Linkage System© includes the following steps:

1. *Analyze the state-adopted academic content standards to identify the applicable Taxonomy skills related to those standards.*
2. *Analyze occupations or career and technical education program competencies to identify academic Taxonomy skills required for competent performance, called the **r**elated **a**cademic **s**kills (RAS).*
3. *Crosswalk the career and technical education program-related academic skills to state academic content standards.*
4. *Develop occupation/career and technical program-related contextual academic statements.*

The **first step** involved the use of academic content experts in the analysis of the Virginia Standards of Learning to the Taxonomy academic skills. For Virginia's purposes, Taxonomy items can be coded during the analysis process to identify Virginia's academic pre-requisite and co-requisite skills.

The **second step** in *The Linkage System©* is to identify the related academic skills (RAS) required for competent performance of the Virginia career and technical education competencies. Virginia career and technical education instructors, who are experts in the relevant area, assisted by Virginia academic content experts, will review the content of Virginia-specified career and technical education programs to determine the specific academic skills required for competent performance.

The **third step** is crosswalking the Taxonomy skills and career and technical education program skills. It provides a powerful tool for improving both academic and career and technical education program instruction, for the following reasons:

C   Career and technical education instructors can assure that the required academic content is included or imbedded in their instruction, which will
  C   provide opportunities for academic skill reinforcement for students enrolled in a career and technical program, and
  C   provide assurance to employers that the required academic content is covered in the program.
C   Academic instructors will be able to use the statements as context for academic instruction and therefore provide a powerful learning tool for students.
C   Curriculum developers will have a contextual academic resource that can be used in assuring the scenarios developed for instruction/assessment provide appropriate coverage of not only the technical but also the academic content for the program.
C   The role of career and technical education is further defined by helping students meet the state's academic content standards. (Research shows that contextual instruction provides significant improvements in learning and retention of content among students of all ages.)

The **fourth step** is the development of contextual statements that bring together the academic content standards and career and technical program standards. Most simply, they state how a specific academic skill is used or applied in the workplace. Once the contextual skills are identified for the occupational or career and technical program, they provide a significant resource base for dialog between career and technical and academic instructors. *The Linkage System©* provides resources for Virginia's academic instructors to better serve learners who require concrete rather than abstract instruction for their greatest academic success. Additionally, Virginia's career and technical instructors will have a resource to imbed academic program content, addressing the support and reinforcement of the Standards of Learning in career and technical programs and increasing academic performance of all students.

The V-TECS system for linking academic content standards and career and technical program standards (competencies) provides rich instructional resources for career, technical and academic instructors, provides tools for enhancing the quality of workforce performance, and provides resources to improve the quality of academic performance for all Virginia's students.

Career and Technical Education Cities/Counties
(The highlighted school divisions have provided academic teachers for the project and are part of our database.)

Accomack	**Charlottesville**	**Gloucester**
Albemarle	**Chesapeake**	Goochland
Alleghany	**Chesterfield**	Grayson
Alexandria	Clarke	Greene
Amelia	**Colonial Beach**	Greensville
Amherst	Covington	Halifax
Appomattox	**Craig**	**Hampton**
Arlington	Culpeper	**Hanover**
Augusta	Cumberland	**Harrisonburg**
Bath	**Danville**	**Henrico**
Bedford	Dickenson	**Henry**
Bland	**Dinwiddie**	Highland
Botetourt	Essex	**Hopewell**
Bristol	**Fairfax**	**Isle of Wight**
Brunswick	Falls Church	**King George**
Buchanan	Fauquier	King and Queen
Buckingham	**Floyd**	**King William**
Buena Vista	Fluvanna	Lancaster
Campbell	Franklin City	Lee
Caroline	**Franklin County**	**Loudoun**
Carroll	Frederick	Louisa
Charles City	Fredericksburg	**Lunenburg**
Charlotte	**Galax**	Lynchburg
	Giles	Madison

Manassas

Manassas Park

Martinsville

Mathews

Mecklenburg

Middlesex

Montgomery

Nelson

New Kent

Newport News

Norfolk

Northampton

Northumberland

Norton

Nottoway

Orange

Page

Patrick

Petersburg

Pittsylvania

Poquoson

Portsmouth

Powhatan

Prince Edward

Prince George

Prince William

Pulaski

Radford

Rappahannock

Richmond City

Richmond County

Roanoke City

Roanoke County

Rockbridge

Rockingham

Russell

Salem

Scott

Shenandoah

Smyth

Southampton

Spotsylvania

Stafford

Staunton

Suffolk

Surry

Sussex

Tazewell

Virginia Beach

Warren

Washington

Waynesboro

West Point

Westmoreland

Wmsbg./James City

Winchester

Wise

Wythe

York