



Proposed List of Industry-based Certifications
For Inclusion in State Accountability System

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. [§74.14 \(e\) \(2\)](#)

_____ , this
certification is defined as
... an industry validated credential that complies with knowledge and

3. What criteria are being used to determine which certifications would be included in the final list?

- The base criteria used to determine inclusion within the accountability system (as required by statute) concerns recognition by industry groups, as defined by the certification being:
 - i. **Nationally- or internationally-recognized:** Certifications that are nationally or internationally recognized through a national or international business, industry, or professional organization.
 - ii. **State-recognized:** Texas-certified industry certifications are those that are recognized and valued by either a state agency or government entity, or a state-based industry association.
- Additional criteria is representative of extensive feedback from stakeholders, other agency partners and best practices found in other states who have done similar work in identifying industry-based certifications of value. The tri-agency report recommendations were also instrumental in highlighting key components of high quality certifications as the commissioners made recommendations around better student preparation of the marketable skills necessary to succeed in business and industry's in-demand and high-demand fields. The additional criteria includes:
 - i. **End of Program (High School):** In order for certifications to be recognized in the state's accountability system, they must represent a culmination of knowledge and skills achievement through completion of a program of study in a high school Career and Technical Education program. While valuable certifications exist that serve as "building blocks" in attaining a targeted skill set, only certifications that are deemed as "end of program" will be considered for inclusion within the accountability system.
 - ii. **Stackable (direct transference to postsecondary work or additional industry certifications and opportunities):** Certifications must either be accepted for credit or hours at an institution of higher education, or they must include additional opportunities for workplace advancement, whether through additional certifications or other industry-validated pathways.
 - iii. **Industry Valued:** Industry certifications must be valued by respective career cluster industry groups and councils across the state in order to determine that the certifications are valid entry points for higher wage jobs. Industry-valued certifications may reflect either regional or statewide demand for employment, as determined by industry groups.

4. What process was used by TEA to review the list of certifications submitted by districts?

- The original compiled list from districts and the PER included over 830 entries, not all of which were actual certifications. The list was reviewed and analyzed through multiple rounds of review (by TEA staff, other agencies, and industry partners) to eliminate duplicate certifications, determine those not meeting base

criteria (state, national or international recognition), and identify those not meeting other criteria (end of high school program and/or transference to postsecondary work or additional certifications). The many round of analysis reduced the list to the current 67 certifications.

5. Why aren't all of the PER list of certifications included in the final list?

- Based on the criteria, not all of the certifications on the PER list were eligible for inclusion. For example, they may have included certifications issued by vendors or those that did not meet the other criteria.

6. How will districts provide TEA with information about the students earning certifications?

- Beginning in the 2017-18 academic year, districts will enter information about industry-based certifications in PEIMS through the addition of a new PEIMS code.

7. Will districts be penalized for offering certifications to students that are not included in this list?

- No, districts will not be penalized for offering additional certifications not included on this list.

8. If our district has invested in certifications that are not included in the final list, what should we do?

- It is at the discretion of the district to make decisions about which industry-based certifications will be offered on each campus. The final list will provide clarity about the certification offerings that will earn acknowledgement through the state's accountability system. TEA understands that district programs might choose to offer certifications that serve as important building blocks for students, yet do not necessarily meet the criteria for the accountability system. It is important to note that the inclusion of recognized certifications in the accountability system represents one small component in how districts may obtain acknowledgement through Domain IV of the accountability system.

9. How will TEA consider certifications that students may earn after completion of a high school program of study (those that are based on high school student preparation, but certified during a 2-year or 4-year post-secondary program of study)?

- The recognition of industry-based certifications earned in high school is only one method for districts to receive acknowledgment of college and career readiness within Domain IV of the accountability system. TEA recognizes that schooc 0.0021 /P AM3(ne)3(5

10. How will TEA account for changes in certifications and industry needs?

- TEA understands that new developments in program and industry occur regularly. Therefore, TEA will engage in an annual review of the list of certifications to ensure that the list reflects the most current industry needs.

11. How will