

Industry-Based Certifications For Public School Accountability Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What are industry-based certifications?

A certification is a validation that an individual possesses certain industry specific skills. Industry-based certifications (IBCs) are related to a career cluster or occupation and measured against a set of accepted standards. ~~Individuals can have multiple certifications with~~

~~certifications (Texas Higher Education Accountability Board (THEAB) website)~~

2. How is a certificate different from a certification, as defined above?

A certificate is a formal award granted by an IHE certifying the satisfactory completion of a higher education program. Upon completion, a certificate is valid without further action on the individual's part. Certificates are usually awarded in workforce education areas by public and private two-year institutions. In Texas, certificates can have different levels, often based on the number of hours required by the certificate program.

- Level I certificate: awarded for completing a program consisting of at least 15 and no more than 42 semester credit hours
- Level II certificate: awarded for completing a program of at least 30 but not more than 51 semester credit hours
- Advanced Technical Certificate: 16-50 hours and a previously awarded associate degree, a previously awarded bachelor's degree, or junior status toward a baccalaureate, depending on the program
- Enhanced Skills and Occupational Skills Certificates: generally 9- 15 hours

3. Why were Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) included in the accountability system?

House Bill 22 (85th Texas Legislature, 2017) requires the Texas Education Agency to account for high school students who earn an industry-based certification as one indicator within the Student Achievement domain of the state's public-school accountability system. While hundreds of unique certifications are earned by public school students, the public-school accountability system measures success in preparing students for in-demand careers, whether students enter the workforce directly or enroll in postsecondary education. IBCs represent industry-

- **Industry recognized and valued:** a certification must be industry recognized and valued.
 - (A) A certification is industry recognized and valued if the certification is:
 - (i) referred to the Texas Education Agency (TEA):
 - (I) by the Texas Workforce Commission as part of the inventory of industry-recognized credentials approved by the industry-based certification advisory council authorized by Texas Labor Code, §312.002; or
 - (II) directly using a process identified and implemented by TEA and published on the TEA website if the certification is not referred to TEA by the TWC under (2)(A)(i)(I) of this section; and
 - (ii) determined to be valued by a representative sample of employers, as demonstrated in at least one of the following ways:
 - (I) inclusion of the certification in job postings as required or highly recommended;
 - (II) use of the certification as a factor in selecting candidates for an interview or for hire; or
 - (III) offer of higher pay for individuals who possess the certification.
 - (B) If a determination that value has been demonstrated under subparagraph (A)(ii) is not made prior to referral under subparagraph (A)(i)(I), TEA may use a third-party organization with expertise in gathering information from employers prxdap t)ivs

standards and: (a) the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for a secondary course aligned to the career cluster associated with the certification assessment; or (b) the applicable TEKS for a set of courses within a program of study in a secondary career and technical education program.

6. What process was used by the TEA to receive input from school districts, business, and industry about the list of certifications?

The TEA accepted submissions of recommended IBCs for inclusion o

§97.1001, Accountability Rating System. For more information, consult the [2021 Accountability Manual](#).

9.

Links/Resources:

Texas Education Agency 2021 Accountability Manual

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/2021-accountability-manual-chapters-1-11.pdf>

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2018 (Understanding Credentials in Texas: Certificates & Certifications)

[Understanding Credentials in Texas: Certificates & Certifications](#)

[Understanding Credentials in Texas: Certificates & Certifications](#)

Texas Workforce Investment Council, 2015 (Tracking Industry-Based Certifications: Promising Practices in Capturing Data on the Workforce Supply of Industry-Certified Workers)

https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/twic/Tracking_Industry-Based_Certifications_Summary.pdf