



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: S

Date: April 25, 2024

Title: First and Final Review of Revisions to the List of 2024-2025 Board of Education Approved Industry Certifications, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses

Presenter: Dr. J. Anthony Williams, Director of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Purpose of Presentation

Action required by Board of Education regulation.

Executive Summary

The Virginia Department of Education (“VDOE”) evaluates student credentials on an on-going basis against prescribed criteria for graduation requirements for the Standard Diploma [8VAC20-131-51](#) B and verified credit(s) ([8VAC20-131-110](#) C). Credentials that meet the criteria are presented to the Virginia Board of Education annually for approval, and the guidance document is posted on the VDOE website and [Virginia Regulatory Townhall](#).

The process for reviewing and validating student credentials for the purpose of awarding verified credit is based on the following criteria: (1) the test must be standardized and graded independently of the school or school division in which the test is given; (2) the test must be knowledge based; (3) the test must be administered on a statewide, multistate, or international basis, or administered as part of another state’s accountability assessment program; and (4) to be counted in a specific academic area, the test must measure content that incorporates or exceeds the *Standards of Learning* content in the course for which verified credit is given. Important to this process is ensuring that the credential is relevant and recognized in the workplace.

The 17 recommended industry certification examinations meet the Board’s graduation requirements as identified for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas in [8VAC20-131-51](#)

(effective with the students who enter the ninth grade in the 2018-2019 school year). Students shall earn the required standard and verified units of credit described in subdivision two of the appropriate subsection.

The industry certification examinations starting on page 6 meet the criteria to satisfy requirements for the Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) Seal and the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (“STEM”) Seal.

Industry or trade association certification examinations, professional licenses, and occupational competency assessments are continually being revised or discontinued to stay current with technology and innovation. Credentialing providers have discontinued 7 previously approved credentials for the 2024-2025 school year. Based on a review of data for credentials attempted over the past 15 years, we recommend an additional 56 previously approved credentials be discontinued because they no longer align with current courses, were added prior to 2018-2019 and have never been taken, or no student attempts have been made since the 2018-2019 school year. Credentials that are recommended for deletion from the Board-approved list can be found starting on page 7.

These changes may be such that individual credentials are no longer available or no longer meet the Board of Education’s criteria for the academic specific verified credit, the Standard Diploma’s Career and Technical Education credential or the additional requirements for graduation in accordance with the Standards of Quality, and the diploma seals awards for exemplary student performance in Career and Technical Education and STEM.

This Board item aligns with Priority 4 of the Board’s *Comprehensive Plan 2024-2029*: to create innovative pathways for every learner.

Action Requested

The Board is requested to waive first review and approve the 17 additions to the Board of Education Approved Industry Certifications, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses and remove 63 previously approved credentials.

The Board reviews the list of industry credentials at its April and June meetings for the credentials to be made available to school divisions by July 1. Following the Board approval, the new credentialing list must be updated within the Career Clusters and Resources tabs on the CTE Resource Center [website](#), the state’s online repository of CTE courses and credentials. The details about each new credential including test and accommodations must be published. Once published in July, it gives school divisions the opportunity to review the new credentials and

courses for the following school year and make adjustments in their learning management systems.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the 17 new industry certification examinations, occupational competency assessments, and professional licenses to meet the Board of Education’s requirements for (1) graduation effective with the students who entered the ninth grade in the 2018-2019 school year (and beyond), and (2) the Career and Technical Education and STEM Seals. Further, it is recommended the Board approve the removal of 63 credentials that are no longer offered by the providers, no longer align with current courses, were added prior to 2018-2019 and have never been taken, or no student attempts have been made since the 2018-2019 school year.

Rationale for Action

The Board’s action is required to remain in compliance with the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*.

Previous Review or Action

Previous review or action. Specify date and action taken below:

Dates: September 28, 2000; April 26, 2001; April 24 & 25, 2002; May 28, 2003; June 25, 2003; February 25, 2004; February 23, 2005; November 30, 2005; November 29, 2006; January 10, 2008; January 15, 2009; January 14, 2010; February 17, 2011; May 24, 2012; June 27, 2013; April 24, 2014; April 23, 2015; April 28, 2016; May 25, 2017; April 26, 2018; April 25, 2019; May 7, 2020; April 22, 2021; and April 21, 2022; and April 20, 2023.

Action: Technical changes, additions, and/or deletions were approved to the list of Board-approved certification examinations, assessments, and licenses.

- Currently, there are 446 Board-Approved industry or trade association certification examinations, professional licenses, and occupational competency assessments.

Background Information and Statutory Authority

The [Profile of a Virginia Graduate](#) illustrates the knowledge, skills, experiences, and attributes that students must obtain to be successful in college and/or the workforce and to be “life ready” and provides the framework for the requirements students must meet to earn a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma. The Virginia Department of Education evaluates, on an ongoing basis, student credentials against prescribed criteria for these graduation requirements. The following statutory authority materials exhibit the importance and relevance of the career and technical education credentials to the graduation requirements:

Board regulation [8VAC20-131-110](#) C states the following:

The board may from time to time approve additional tests for the purpose of awarding verified credit. Such additional tests, which enable students to earn verified units of credit, must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:

1. The test must be standardized and graded independently of the school or school division in which the test is given;
2. The test must be knowledge based;
3. The test must be administered on a statewide, multistate, or international basis, or administered as part of another state's accountability assessment program; and
4. To be counted in a specific academic area, the test must measure content that incorporates or exceeds the Standards of Learning content in the course for which verified credit is given.

Board regulation [8 VAC20-131-51](#) B 2 sets the following requirement in “Laboratory Science” to earn a diploma and graduate a Virginia high school for those students beginning ninth grade in 2018-2019 and beyond:

A laboratory science verified credit may be awarded to students who complete a career and technical education program sequence and (i) pass two examinations or occupational competency assessments in a career and technical education field that confers certification or an occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, trade, or professional association; (ii) acquire two professional licenses in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia; or (iii) pass one examination or competency assessment from clause (i) and acquire one license from clause (ii). The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the board as an additional test to verify student achievement.

Board regulation [8 VAC20-131-51](#) B 2 sets the following requirement in “Advanced Placement, Honors, or International Baccalaureate Course or Career and Technical Education Credential” to earn a diploma and graduate a Virginia high school for those students beginning ninth grade in 2018-2019 and beyond:

In accordance with the Standards of Quality, students shall (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, International Baccalaureate, or dual enrollment course; (ii) complete a high-quality work-based learning experience, as established by board guidance on work-based learning; or (iii) earn a career and technical education credential approved

by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the standard diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.

Board regulation [8VAC20-131-51](#) C 2 sets the following requirement in “Advanced Placement, Honors, or International Baccalaureate Course or Career and Technical Education Credential” to earn a diploma and graduate a Virginia high school for those students beginning ninth grade in 2018-2019 and beyond:

In accordance with the Standards of Quality, students shall (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, International Baccalaureate, or dual enrollment course; (ii) complete a high-quality work-based learning experience as established by board guidance on work-based learning; or (iii) earn a career and technical education credential approved by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the advanced studies diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.

Board regulation [8VAC20-131-51](#) H 3 states the following:

The Board of Education's Career and Technical Education Seal shall be awarded to students who earn a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma and complete a prescribed sequence of courses in a career and technical education concentration or specialization that they choose and maintain a "B" or better average in those courses; or (i) pass an examination or an occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education concentration or specialization that confers certification or occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, trade or professional association or (ii) acquire a professional license in that career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The board shall approve all professional licenses and examinations used to satisfy these requirements.

Implementation and Communication

After Board approval, the revised guidance document will be submitted to the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall for a 30-day public comment period pursuant to the Administrative Process Act.

A Superintendent's Memorandum will notify school divisions of the technical changes and additions to and deletions from the list of industry certifications, occupational competency assessments, and licenses and the revised list will be posted on the Virginia Department of Education website.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources

State funds will be used to assist students to become certified. Federal Perkins CTE funds may be used to help teachers, programs, and students become certified.

ADDITIONS

Business and Information Technology

1. Cisco Certified Support Technician Examinations (pass any one) (Certiport)

Family and Consumer Sciences

1. Certified Hospitality Manager (CHM) Examination (American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute (AHLEI))
2. Certified Restaurant Professional (CRP) Examination (American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute (AHLEI))
3. Certified Restaurant Supervisor (CRS) Examination (American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute (AHLEI))

Health and Medical Sciences

1. Biotechnician Assistant Certification Examination (BACE) (UF Biotility)
2. Certified Endoscope Reprocessor (CER) Examination (Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA))
3. Corrective Exercise Specialist (CES) Examination (National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM))

Marketing

1. Meta Certified Digital Marketing Associate Examination (Certiport)

Technology and Engineering Education

1. Toon Boom Certified Associate Harmony Examinations (pass any one) (Toon Boom Animation)

Trade and Industrial Education

1. ASE High-Voltage Electrical Safety Standards (xEV) Examination (National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE))
2. ASE Refrigerant Recovery & Recycling Examination (EPA 609) (National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE))
3. Carpentry Level Two Assessment (National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER))
4. Electrical Level Two Assessment (National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER))
5. Heavy Equipment Operations Level Two Assessment (National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER))
6. HVACR Level Two Assessment (National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER))
7. Plumbing Level Two Assessment (National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER))
8. Yamaha Maintenance Certification: Introduction to Outboard Systems (Yamaha Marine University)

DELETIONS

(Credentials discontinued or removed by providers)

Agricultural Education

1. Landscape Management Certification Examination (Green Industry Web (GIW) Portal)
2. Turfgrass Management Certification Examination (Green Industry Web (GIW) Portal)
3. Urban Forestry Management Certification Examination (Green Industry Web (GIW) Portal)

Business and Information Technology

1. Coding in Minecraft Capstone Credential (Certiport)
2. Ethical Hacking Associate Examination (EC-Council)
3. Interactive Media Assessment (NOCTI)
4. Linux+ Examination (CompTIA)

Family and Consumer Sciences

1. Early Childhood Development and Services Assessment (NOCTI)

2. Family and Community Services Assessment (NOCTI)
3. Interior Decorating and Design Assessment (NOCTI)
4. Personal Care Services Assessment (NOCTI)

Health and Medical Sciences Education

1. AAPC Medical Coding Examinations (pass any one) (American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC))
2. Certified EKG Technician (CET) Examination (American Allied Health (AAH))
3. Certified Optometric Assistant (COA) Examination (American Allied Health (AAH))
4. Dental Support Technician Certification (DSTC) Examination (American Medical Certification Association (AMCA))
5. Home Health Aide Assessment (NOCTI)
6. Limited Licensed Radiology Technologist (LLRT) Examination (American Allied Health (AAH))
7. Medical Coding and Billing Specialist (MCBS) Examination (National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT))
8. National Certified Insurance and Coding Specialist (NCICS) Examination (National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT))
9. National Certified Medical Assistant (NCMA) Examination (National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT))
10. National Certified Phlebotomy Technician (NCPT) Examination (National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT))
11. National Registered Certified Administrative Health Assistant (NRCAHA) Examination (National Association for Health Professionals (NAHP))
12. Nationally Registered Certified Coding Specialist (NRCCS) Examination (National Association for Health Professionals (NAHP))
13. Nationally Registered Certified EKG Technician (NRCEKG) Examination (National Association for Health Professionals (NAHP))
14. Nationally Registered Certified Patient Care Technician (NRCPT) Examination (National Association for Health Professionals (NAHP))
15. Nationally Registered Certified Pharmacy Technician (NRCPhT) Examination (National Association for Health Professionals (NAHP))
16. Nationally Registered Phlebotomy Technician (NRCPT) Examination (National Association for Health Professionals (NAHP))
17. Patient Care Technician Certification (PCTC) (American Medical Certification Association (AMCA))
18. Tech in Surgery Certified (TS-C) Examination (National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT))

Marketing

1. ASK Concepts of Entrepreneurship & Management Assessment (ASK Business Institute)
2. Travel and Tourism Assessment (NOCTI)

Technology and Engineering Education

1. Biotechnology Assessment (NOCTI)
2. Spatial Projects and Community Exchange (SPACE) Examination (Digital Quest)
3. Spatial Technology and Remote Sensing (STARS) Certification Examination (Digital Quest)

Trade and Industrial Education

1. Air Conditioning Service Examination (North American Technician Association (NATE))
2. Audio-Visual Communication Technology Assessment (NOCTI)
3. Cabinetmaking Assessment (NOCTI)
4. Certified Alarm Security Technician (CAST) Examination (Electronics Technicians Association (ETA), International)
5. Certified Broadcast Technologist (CBT) Examination (The Society of Broadcast Engineers)
6. Certified Radio Operator (CRO) Examination (The Society of Broadcast Engineers)
7. Certified Television Operator (CTO) Examination (The Society of Broadcast Engineers)
8. Construction Assessment (NOCTI)
9. Customer Service Specialist (CSS) Examination (Electronics Technicians Association (ETA), International)
10. Design and Pre-Construction Assessment (NOCTI)
11. Diesel Technology Assessment (NOCTI)
12. Electric Power and Distribution Assessment (NOCTI)
13. Fundamentals of Construction Assessment (NOCTI)
14. Graphic Production Technology Assessment (NOCTI)
15. Industrial Electronics Assessment (NOCTI)
16. Industrial Maintenance Mechanic Assessment (NOCTI)
17. Installer (or Service) Core (HVAC/R) Examination (North American Technician Excellence (NATE))
18. Legal Services Assessment (NOCTI)
19. Maintenance Operations Assessment (NOCTI)
20. Mobile Communications and Electronics Installer (MCEI) Examinations (Electronics Technicians Association (ETA), International)
21. Performing Arts Assessment (NOCTI)

22. Photovoltaic Installer Level 1 (PVI1) Examination (Electronics Technicians Association (ETA), International)
23. Plumbing Assessment (NOCTI)
24. Security and Protective Services Assessment (NOCTI)
25. Small Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Safety Certification Examination (Unmanned Safety Institute (USI))
26. Technical Theater Assessment (NOCTI)
27. Telecommunications Electronic Technician (TCM) Examination (Electronic Technicians Association (ETA), International)
28. Visual Arts Assessment (NOCTI)

Professional Licenses

1. General Radiotelephone Operator (GRO) Examination (Federal Communications Commission (FCC))