



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: L

Date: July 25, 2024

Title: First and Final Review of Revision 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 recommended industry certification examination meets 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 examination meets the criteria to satisfy requirements for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Seal and the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Seal.

This Board item aligns with Board of Education Priority 1—provide high-quality, effective learning environments for all students.

Action Requested

The Board is requested to waive first review and approve the following addition to the Board of Education Approved Industry Certifications, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses:

Marketing

1. US Entrepreneurship Certification (Economic Empowerment Project/ Pitsco Education)

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the addition to the Board of Education Approved Industry Certifications, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses as presented in this item.

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.

ADDITION

Marketing

2. US Entrepreneurship Certification (Economic Empowerment Project/ Pitsco Education)