

Industry Certificate Guidebook

Industry Certificate Work Group, January 2015

The information for industry certifications was created by the Graduation Guidelines Industry Certificate Work Group. For a list of the members of the work group or for a copy of [Industry Certification: Implementation Recommendations, Resources, and Tools](#), please click [here](#).

Postsecondary Engagement

Concurrent enrollment

Industry certifications can also be an additional pathway between high school and postsecondary education. Because industry certifications may be earned through a series of courses that are taught through a postsecondary education institution, a student could potentially begin earning postsecondary credits while still in high school and working towards an industry certification. This opportunity for concurrent enrollment is one that many districts and schools already utilize – 92% of districts and 75% of high schools have students participating in concurrent enrollment. These partnerships between high schools and institutions of higher education can provide support for students to develop a pathway towards an industry certification. Concurrent enrollment courses can be utilized for CTE postsecondary programs as well, many of which may end with the ability to sit for an industry certification examination.

For resources on implementing concurrent enrollment in your district, visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/concurrentenrollment>

Stackable Credentials

Another key way for supporting students' educational and employment outcomes is providing opportunities to earn stackable credentials. These are credentials that are "part of a sequence of credentials that can be accumulated over time to build up an individual's qualifications and help them to move along a career pathway or up a career ladder to different and potentially higher-paying jobs." Because there are an overwhelming number of credentials that a student might be able to earn, identifying a career pathway, and the stackable credentials that can be earned to move along that pathway, can help narrow down the focus on what credential to start with, and subsequent certifications that can be earned. Industry groups are working on identifying a series or sequence of stackable credentials that can prepare students for employment in the industry. Some examples specific to Colorado include Advanced Manufacturing Pathways, and Healthcare Pathways.

For more information on stackable credentials and further examples:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL15-10a2.pdf>

<http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/files/2014-03-21-Stackable-Credentials-Paper-FINAL.pdf>