

Additional Guidance for Certifying Entities to Complete the Texas Education Agency's 2025-2030 IBC Application

A certification serves as a formal validation that an individual has acquired professional, occupationally specific skills. This validation is based on a set of industry recognized standards and demonstrated through the successful completion of one or more assessments developed by the certifying entity and administered through the entity or authorized vendor. Certifications are typically time-limited credentials, often requiring continued professional development or retesting to maintain the certification.

Texas Education Code [§39.053](#) requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to account for high school students who earn an industry-based certification within the student achievement domain of the state's public school accountability system. The purpose of the IBC list is to identify certifications that prepare students for success in the workforce.

Certifying entities with an industry-based certification (IBC) that is attainable by a high school student and not currently on the Texas Education Agency's [2022-2025 Industry-Based Certification List for Public School Accountability](#), nor on the [Industry-Based Certification Advisory Council 2024 Inventory of Industry-Recognized Credentials](#), are encouraged to apply for inclusion on the 2025-2030 list. The submission window is open through June 17, 2025.

Requests for new IBCs to be evaluated must be submitted through [this questionnaire](#), **using an email address associated with the certifying entity**. Upon receipt of the completed questionnaire, TEA will email the certifying entity's point of contact additional guidance and a unique link to access the official application. Completed applications must be received by TEA no later than June 17, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. CST. Incomplete applications, or those received after the due date, will not be included in the evaluation. Requests for IBC evaluations by stakeholders that are not employees of the certifying entity will not be processed. Local education agency staff that would like additional IBCs to be evaluated should forward this information to the certifying entity for their consideration and application submission.

The process to submit IBCs for evaluation includes the following steps:

1. The certifying entity representative fills out the above questionnaire, which includes the following information:
 - a. Point of Contact Name (authorized representative of the certifying entity who will submit IBC information in the subsequent application)
 - b. Point of Contact Email Address (must use the email domain for the certifying entity for verification)
 - c. Point of Contact Phone Number
 - d. Certifying Entity Name
 - e. Certifying entity's URL where the certification information is located
 - f. Number of certifications to be submitted in subsequent application

Before submitting the questionnaire, the representative must attest that they are authorized by the certifying entity to submit IBC information on their behalf.

2. TEA will send an email to the point of contact provided in step one. The email will include a unique link to an application for the point of contact to enter one or more certifications for consideration, including supporting evidence that demonstrates the certification(s) meet all evaluation criteria. Completed application submissions must be received by TEA no later than June 17, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. CST. Incomplete submissions, or those received after the due date, will not be included in the evaluation.
3. TEA will evaluate each certification by comparing the supporting evidence provided by the certifying entity against the IBC evaluation criteria.
4. TEA will publish a preliminary list of IBCs that met all evaluation criteria in the late summer of 2025.

Evaluation Criteria and Examples of Evidence to be Submitted by Certifying Entities

To be included on the Texas Education Agency's 2025-2030 IBC List for Public School Accountability, IBCs must meet all evaluation criteria described in 19 Texas Administrative Code §74.1003, which includes:

- (1) Certification. A certification is defined as a validation or license that indicates an individual possesses certain industry-specific skills and that meets the following criteria:
 - (A) the certification is:
 - (i) related to the performance requirements of a specific occupation and measured against a set of industry-accepted standards; and
 - (ii) earned by successfully completing an assessment that is provided by or evaluated by an independent, third-party certifying entity and demonstrates an individual's proficiency of the prescribed standards; or
 - (B) the certification is issued by the State of Texas and requires students to demonstrate proficiency of the prescribed standards through courses within a TEA-approved statewide or regional program of study.
- (2) Industry recognized and valued. A certification is industry recognized and valued if:
 - (A) the certification is a license awarded by the State of Texas or federal government;
 - (B) the certification is included on the Department of Labor's CareerOneStop Certifications List as being:
 - (i) third-party industry-endorsed; or
 - (ii) in demand;
 - (C) the certification is included on the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Eligible Training Provider List;
 - (D) the certification is referred to the TEA by TWC as a result of determined correlation between certification attainment and job-related salary;
 - (E) a certifying entity provides evidence of industry recognition and value that is validated by TEA; or

- (F) the certification is referred to TEA by TWC as part of the inventory of industry-recognized credentials approved by the industry-based certification advisory council authorized by Texas Labor Code, §312.002, and meets indicators in paragraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E) of this subsection.
- (3) Attainable by a high school student. A certification is attainable by a high school student if the certification:
 - (A) does not require a bachelor's degree;
 - (B) does not require over 1,500 hours of documented work, unless the certifying entity provides verifiable documented evidence that Texas high school students have earned the certification in one of the past two years;
 - (C) does not require a certification applicant to be 21 years of age or over; and
 - (D) coursework is not required after a student graduates from high school.
- (4) Portable. The certification:
 - (A) can be transferred seamlessly to postsecondary work through acceptance for one or more core program courses at a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges-accredited institution of higher education and verified through the institution of higher education's website;
 - (B) counts toward a minimum of 5% of the hours required in an aligned apprenticeship program and verified through the apprenticeship's website;
 - (C) is part of a prescribed coherent sequence of industry-recognized credentials to show progressive skills development such as I, II, and III or User, Associate, and Professional;
 - (D) is documented by TWC as supporting employment in more than one region of the state; or
 - (E) is a license awarded by the State of Texas or federal government.
- (5) Capstone or end-of-program. A certification assessment is taken at the culmination of a single high school course or multiple related courses within a secondary program of study. There must be at least 50% alignment between the certification assessment standards and the identified occupationally-specific student expectations within at least one level 3 or 4 course in a program of study.

A credential shall not be included on the list of industry-based certifications for public school accountability if:

- (1) the assessment for the credential is open book, open reference, or allows limitless retake opportunities without remediation or remuneration; or
- (2) the credential is designed for high school students and not attainable by adults.

Evaluation Criteria, Requirements, and Documentation Examples

Evaluation Criterion	Requirement	Possible Documentation
1. Certification	Must meet (A)(i) and (ii), or (B)	Screenshot from ONET ¹ of the occupation directly aligned to the IBC and a document that includes the certification knowledge domains and details about the exam, or description of the IBC as shown on official documents or screenshots of certifying entity's website, with relevant information highlighted
2. Industry recognized and valued	Must meet (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E)	Screenshot from licensing agency, CareerOneStop, or TWC with the relevant information highlighted, or other evidence provided by the certifying entity of industry recognition and value
3. Attainable by a high school student	Must meet (A), (B), (C), and (D)	Certifying entity description of the IBC as shown on official documents or screenshots of certifying entity's website, with relevant information highlighted indicating any age, education, or work experience requirements
4. Portable	Must meet (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screenshots from SACSCOC-accredited institution of higher education showing IBC is accepted towards core course credit • Screenshot from apprenticeship program showing IBC is accepted towards apprenticeship program, with relevant information highlighted • Screenshot from certifying entity's website showing stackable IBCs • Screenshot from TWC website showing job opportunities directly related to the IBC in more than one Workforce Development Area² • Evidence the certification is an occupational license issued through a Texas agency or the federal government
5. Capstone or end-of-program	Must meet 50% alignment between the certification assessment standards and the identified occupationally-specific student expectations within at least one level 3 or 4 course in a program of study	Use the <i>Occupationally Specific Student Expectations for IBC Alignment</i> Excel workbook that was attached to the application email to document at least 50% of the student expectations within a course are aligned to the certification exam standards. Upload a screenshot of the Excel sheet that shows the crosswalk of student expectations to descriptions of the exam standards, with a minimum of 50% of the student expectations in at least one course covered

Evaluation Criterion	Requirement	Possible Documentation
<p>Additional requirements for inclusion:</p> <p>(A) the assessment for the credential is not open book, open reference, nor allows limitless retake opportunities without remediation or remuneration; and</p> <p>(B) the credential is attainable by high school students and adult professionals in the workforce</p>	Must meet (A) and (B)	Certifying entity description of the IBC as shown on official documents or screenshots of certifying entity's website, with relevant information highlighted

Completed applications must be received by TEA no later than June 17, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. CST. Incomplete applications, or those received after the due date, will not be included in the evaluation. Requests for IBC evaluations by stakeholders that are not employees of the certifying entity will not be processed.

The timeline for the IBC evaluation completion is dependent upon the number of submissions and dates of receipt. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they are received. IBCs approved for inclusion on the 2025-2030 IBC List for Public School Accountability are expected to be announced in late summer 2025.

Email ibc@tea.texas.gov if you have additional questions.

¹ Visit [ONET Online](https://onlinetoolsonline.com) and search for the occupation directly aligned to the certification. The occupation specific skills should be reflected in the exam assessment (not generalized skills that pertain to many occupations).

² For a list of Texas Workforce Development Board areas, see <https://www.twc.texas.gov/agency/workforce-development-boards>. CEs can find a city or county in [the Find My Local Board by City and County](#) crosswalk.