

## Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) for Public School Accountability Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the purpose of the IBC list?

TEC §39.053 requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) 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. The purpose of the IBC list is to identify certifications that prepare students for success in the workforce, military, or postsecondary education.

### 2. How often is the IBC list updated?

New developments in industry occur regularly; therefore, TEA will update the IBC list every two years.

### 3. What criteria were used to evaluate the IBCs?

Six evaluation criteria are defined in 19 TAC [§74.1003](#). The six criteria are certification, industry recognized and valued, attainable by a high school student, portable, certifying entity, and capstone or end-of-program. More information on the evaluation criteria and review process is available [here](#).

### 4. Some IBCs seem to have changed their names slightly but have the same unique identifiers. Are these the same IBCs as those on the previous IBC list?

The names of IBCs have been updated to reflect the official names. If an IBC has the same unique identifier as in previous years, it is the same certification.

### 5. Why do I see three-digit unique identifiers for some IBCs and certifying entities while others have four-digit identifiers?

Adding a fourth digit was necessary as additional IBCs were added to the list. IBCs that were on the previous list will retain their original 3-digit identifier.

### 6. Why are the IBC vendors no longer listed?

Certifying entities determine which vendors are allowed to provide certification examinations. The TEA has shifted from listing vendors to listing certifying entities to allow local education agencies (LEAs) more options when selecting the vendors (approved by the certifying entities) to meet students' needs.

**7. What is the difference between a certifying entity and a vendor?**

*Certifying entities* are 3<sup>rd</sup> party organizations, often trade associations or industry-acknowledged test developers, that develop and validate certification examinations. *Vendors* provide testing platforms. One or more vendors may be approved by a certifying entity to administer their certification examination(s), in accordance with the guidelines, parameters, and requirements developed by that certifying entity.

**8. Can a certifying entity be a vendor and vice versa?**

In some instances, certifying entities develop the certification examination and administer it on their own testing platform. In these instances, the certifying entity and vendor are the same entity.

**9. Where can I find the vendors that the certifying entities approve to administer their IBCs?**

Each certifying entity's website is hyperlinked on the Industry Based Certification List for Public School Accountability. The webpage for each certifying entity should provide details about approved vendors, costs of certification examinations, qualifications candidates must meet to sit for examinations, etc.

**10. Why were the IBC one-page resources removed from the TEA's website?**

Certifying entities frequently make changes to their websites which caused the one-page resources to contain broken links or outdated information. Linking directly to the certifying entities' webpages will ensure LEAs always have the most up-to-date and accurate information provided by the certifying entities.

**11. Why are some IBCs being sunset?**

IBCs prepare students for in-demand jobs within the current workforce. The six evaluation criteria established in 19 TAC [§74.1003](#) were developed to meet requirements in TEC [§39.053](#), that the commissioner adopt a set of indicators, improving student preparedness for success in entering the workforce, the military, or postsecondary education. IBCs that did not meet all six criteria were sunset.

**12. What is the current IBC sunset policy?**

IBCs that did not meet one or more criteria listed in 19 TAC [§74.1003](#) will be ineligible for public school accountability and reimbursement after August 31, 2024. This two-year sunset policy will give students who are currently working toward an IBC on the previous list the opportunity to attain the IBC. It will also give LEAs time to use previously purchased IBC vouchers and make programmatic adjustments, if necessary.

**13. Why are LEAs required to enter all IBCs that were earned, passed, and attempted into PEIMS?**

House Bill 22 (85th Texas Legislature, 2017) requires TEA to account for high school students who earn an IBC as one indicator within the student achievement domain of the state's public school accountability system. House Bill 3 (87th Texas Legislature, 2019) requires TEA to allow LEAs to request reimbursement for one passed IBC.

**14. Which IBCs should be reported in PEIMS (POST-SECONDARY-CERTIFICATION-LICENSE-CODE (E1640) and what are the differences between IBCs being earned, passed, and attempted?**

LEAs should report all IBCs earned, passed, and attempted in the PEIMS Fall and Summer submissions using the data element POST-SECONDARY-CERTIFICATION-LICENSE-RESULT (E1733) in compliance with the Texas Education Data Standards. See below for definitions and examples.

*Earned:* Earning the certification means that the student has successfully completed all requirements defined by the certifying entity. For example, some IBCs are earned upon passing a certification test from vendors approved by the certifying entity. Other IBCs require additional steps, such as completing and passing specific courses outlined by the certifying entity, receiving a certificate of training from an authorized training provider, passing a background check after submitting fingerprints and social security number, or registering for a license. LEAs should consult the certifying entities' webpages, which are hyperlinked within the Approved IBC List for Public School Accountability, to determine the requirements that must be met for students to earn IBCs.

If a student has earned an IBC, the LEA will input the data into their SIS platform and indicate whether or not the LEA is requesting reimbursement for the IBC. Earning an approved IBC is taken into account within the CCMR calculation. All certifications earned from the 2019-22 and 2022-24 IBC Lists for Public School Accountability should be reported within PEIMS.

Examples of examination(s) passed, additional requirements met, and IBC may count toward CCMR calculations:

- a. A student took the Cisco Certified Design Associate examination and passed. There are no other components to this certification. The student may prove that he/she has received the certification by supplying the printed copy of the certification with the verification number or using the verification number to look up the certification in the Cisco Certification Tracking System. The student has earned the IBC, the IBC may count toward CCMR calculations, and the LEA may request reimbursement.
- b. A student completed all requirements to sit for the Cosmetology Operator License. The student took both portions of the examination, passed the written examination and failed the practical examination. However, the student retook the practical examination and passed. The student then applied for and received the Cosmetology Operator License. The student may prove that he/she has earned the Cosmetology Operator License by providing the physical license or through the Texas Board of Cosmetology license

verification website. The student has earned the IBC, the IBC may count toward CCMR calculations, and the LEA may request reimbursement.

*Passed:* The exam has been passed but other requirements, such as fingerprinting or applying for the license, have not been met; or only one exam of a multi-exam IBC has been passed. Reimbursement for the cost of a certification assessment is provided once per high school student for an IBC on the IBC List for Public School Accountability. LEAs that report this data are signaling that they are only requesting reimbursement for a passed IBC examination because the student has not met the other criteria, per the certifying entity, to have earned the certification. Passed IBC examinations are eligible for reimbursement but will not be factored into CCMR.

Examples of examination(s) passed but CCMR not earned:

- a. A student took the CompTIA A+ examination, which consists of 220-1001 (Core 1) and 220-1002 (Core 2). The student *passed* 220-1001 (Core 1) but *failed* 220-1002 (Core 2). The student has not earned the IBC and may not be awarded CCMR credit; however, the LEA may request reimbursement for the passed CompTIA A+ 220-1001 (Core 1) examination.
- b. A student completed the requirements to sit for the Non-Commissioned Security Officer Level II examination, passed the examination, but did not submit fingerprints for the required background check or complete the application for licensure. The student has not earned the IBC and may not be awarded CCMR credit; however, the LEA may request reimbursement for the passed examination.
- c. A student took the NOCTI Welding – Job Ready examination, which consists of a written examination and performance assessment. The student passed the written examination but did not take the performance assessment. The student has not earned the IBC and may not be awarded CCMR credit; however, the LEA may request reimbursement for the passed written examination.

*Attempted (Failed):* The student took an IBC examination and failed. Every instance of an attempted IBC examination should be reported within PEIMS even if the student did not pass the examination or earn the IBC. Attempted IBCs will not count toward CCMR nor be considered for reimbursement. However, data is collected so that the Texas Education Agency can report progress toward Perkins performance indicators and examine the root causes of trends. Additional resources or training may be developed by TEA and offered to LEAs to meet the educational needs of students based on this information.

Example of examination attempted but failed:

- a. A student took an IBC examination and failed. The LEA should report the result of the examination. The student may not be awarded CCMR credit and the LEA may not request reimbursement.

As with all self-reported data submitted through PEIMS, LEAs should keep records supporting the information submitted through the system.

**15. The IBC certifying entity retired the certification I was planning to give my students. May I substitute a similar certification that is not on the Industry-Based Certification List for Public School Accountability?**

Only the certifications on the Industry-Based Certification List for Public School Accountability are eligible for reimbursement and count toward CCMR within the A-F Accountability System.

**16. May students take an approved IBC examination from a certifying entity not listed on the Industry-Based Certification List for Public School Accountability and still be eligible for IBC reimbursement and CCMR accountability?**

Only the vendors approved through the certifying entities listed with the associated certifications are eligible for IBC reimbursement and count toward CCMR within the A-F Accountability System.

**17. Will the TEA update the Industry-Based Certification List for Public School Accountability with additional IBCs when certification entities retire examinations?**

The TEA will not replace IBCs from the Industry-Based Certification List for Public School Accountability due to the rigorous, stakeholder driven evaluation process certifications must meet to be included on the list.

**18. Are accommodations allowed on IBC examinations?**

Each certifying entity determines whether accommodations are allowed, the types of accommodations, qualifying factors, and the application process. LEA administrators who have a student in need of accommodations on an IBC examination are encouraged to contact the certifying entity several months ahead of the anticipated examination date to discuss the student's needs and application process. Contact information may be found on the certifying entities' webpages, which are hyperlinked on the [IBC to Certifying Entity Crosswalk](#). Coordination of accommodations with the testing vendor may also be necessary.