Texas Education Agency
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Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) for Public School Accountability
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the IBC list?

Texas Education Code (TEC) §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, military, or postsecondary education.

2. When will the IBC list be updated?

New developments in industry occur regularly; therefore, TEA anticipates updating the 2025-30 IBC list in five years.

3. What criteria were used to evaluate the 2025-30 IBC List?

Evaluation criteria are defined in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.1003. The criteria include: defined as a certification, industry recognized and valued, attainable by a high school student, portable, and capstone or end-of-program. Additionally, certifications must be closed book, not allow limitless retakes without remediation or remuneration, and be attainable by adults.

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 continue to be updated to reflect the current 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 unique identifier.

6. Why are the IBC vendors no longer listed?

Certifying entities determine which vendors are allowed to provide certification examinations. Listing certifying entities allows 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 third-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 are some IBCs sunset?

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

11. 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, 2026. This one-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 make programmatic adjustments, if necessary.

12. Why are LEAs required to enter all IBCs that were passed or earned 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 2 Article 6 (89th Texas Legislature, 2025) requires TEA to allow LEAs to request reimbursement for two *passed* or earned IBC examinations per high school student. Additionally, the cost of required fingerprinting or background checks may be entered as a separate reimbursement request for passed/earned IBCs t. Additional costs, such as curriculum or materials, are not reimbursable.

13. Which IBCs should be reported in PEIMS PostSecondaryCertificationLicensure (E1640) and what are the differences between IBCs being passed and earned?

LEAs should report all IBCs passed and earned between September 1 – May 31 in the PEIMS Summer Submission and all IBCs passed and earned between June 1 – August 31 in the PEIMS Extended Year Submission using the data element PostSecondaryCertLicensureResult (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 included in CCMR calculations. All certifications earned from the IBC List for Public School Accountability should be reported within PEIMS.

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

a. A student took the Cisco Certified Network 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: Passing the exam does not necessarily mean the student has earned the certification. For example, the student may pass an exam but may not have completed other requirements, such as fingerprinting or applying for the license; or passing only one exam of a multi-exam IBC. Passed IBC examinations should be reported within PEIMS and may be

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 License examination, passed the examination, but did not submit fingerprints for the required background check or complete the TOPS 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 written examination that the student passed.

<u>As with all self-reported data submitted through PEIMS, LEAs should keep records supporting the information submitted through the system for a minimum of five years</u>.

14. 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.

15. 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?
No, only the certifying entities listed with the associated certifications are eligible for IBC reimbursement and count toward CCMR calculations within the A-F Accountability System.

16. Will the TEA update the Industry-Based Certification List for Public School Accountability with additional IBCs when certification entities retire examinations?
A replacement IBC will not be considered outside of the regular cycle for updates to the list.

17. 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

application process. Contact information may be found on the certifying entities' webpages, which are hyperlinked on the 2025-30 IBC List for Public School Accountability Coordination of accommodations with the testing vendor may also be necessary.