

Capstone Industry Certification: Myths vs. Facts

Industry certifications are earned through secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs and courses. High school students are encouraged to focus their elective credits on robust, career-aligned learning pathways. Robust learning pathways should culminate with the achievement of nationally recognized industry certifications, meaningful work based learning experiences, and/or attainment of postsecondary credit hours through early postsecondary opportunities. As it pertains to industry certifications, all department-promoted certifications are aligned with postsecondary and employment opportunities and with the competencies and skills that students should have acquired through their chosen programs of study.

MYTH	FACT
<p>Myth: Industry certification should be closely aligned to a set of standards within a course.</p>	<p>Fact: Industry certifications are representative of the learning a student has mastered through the successful completion of an aligned CTE course and/or program of study. It is important that this alignment exists and that the content in the certification is not only representative of a few standards within a course.</p>
<p>Myth: Every program of study or coherent sequence must lead to a certification.</p>	<p>Fact: This is not a requirement; however, for any certification to be promoted, it is essential that the certification is recognized and valued by the targeted industry. The industry certifications promoted by the department have been vetted by respective career cluster advisory councils. If an identified certification was recognized but not valued, it was not included in the final department-promoted list.</p>
<p>Myth: Promoting and allowing for industry certifications while in high school is not the responsibility of a school district.</p>	<p>Fact: Offering industry certifications and other early postsecondary opportunities that allow students to earn college credit helps to expand the portfolio of available options for students at various levels. To ensure students are developing college and career ready skill sets, robust learning pathways incorporate opportunities for students to demonstrate these skills through early postsecondary and industry credentials.</p>
<p>Myth: The department does not have the certification I teach on the list; therefore I must stop allowing my students to sit for the certification.</p>	<p>Fact: Industry certification offerings are determined by schools; however, only those deemed as capstone certifications will be promoted by the division of College, Career, and Technical Education.</p>
<p>Myth: The number of certifications our students take affects the CTE or Perkins funding the school district receives.</p>	<p>Fact: The number of certifications or licensure exams a district offers its students does not affect funding in any way.</p>