

Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certifications

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What are the three tiers and what do they mean?*

Not all industry certifications have the same level of recognition or value in Tennessee and certification usage can also vary widely depending on industry or postsecondary partner preference. In 2019-20, multiple Tennessee state agencies worked together to align the process and create common criteria to recognize industry certifications and credentials across Tennessee's education and workforce systems.

The three tiers are used as a way to differentiate Student Industry Certifications as either **Recognized, Valued,** or **Preferred**. Tier 1 – Recognized is the minimal level at which an industry certification can be promoted statewide. To be included on the promoted list at this level, certifications must receive 40-50 points on the evaluation rubric. For Tier 2 – Valued certifications must score 51-60 points and for Tier 3 – Promoted certifications must score at least 61 points on the evaluation rubric.

2. *How do the tiers impact Ready Graduate?*

Currently, one potential pathway for students to attain Ready Graduate status is through a combination of promoted student industry certifications and early postsecondary opportunities. The Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) continues to explore options to improve the Ready Graduate indicators, including using the new industry certification tiers to streamline the conversion chart. More information will be shared on the impact to Ready Graduate when available.

3. *Who can submit an industry certification to be reviewed for the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list?*

District administrators, principals, CTE directors, teachers, students, vendors, industry representatives, postsecondary partners, and the general public at large may submit an industry certification to be reviewed for the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list. However, only an authorized district representative (i.e. Director of Schools, Secondary Supervisor, CTE director, etc.) may submit an industry certification to be reviewed as a Local Student Industry Certification.

4. *Can I submit more than one certification?*

There is no limit to the number of certifications that can be submitted for review.

5. *What is the 2020 deadline to submit a certification for the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list?*

The deadline to submit a student industry certification for review this year is Aug. 24, 2020. After this date, submissions will not be reviewed until the next CTE Career Cluster review cycle. Click [here](#) to see the CTE Career Clusters review cycle.

6. What are the minimum criteria a certification must meet to be considered for approval as a Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification?

To be considered for approval as a Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification, the certification must be aligned to at least one TDOE approved program of study. Student level attainment data for this certification must also be documented in the form of a certificate, certification, badge, micro-credential, etc. and an agreement must be in place, or available, for the data to be shared directly with TDOE.

***NOTE:** *If no data sharing agreement is available for the vendor to share directly with TDOE, the data must be obtainable through district reporting and submission of qualifying documentation of student attainment.*

7. The certification we want to submit does not meet the minimum requirements. What can we do?

For certifications that do not meet the minimum requirements, the district may submit the certification as a Local Student Industry Certification. If approved, the Local Student Industry Certification will be identified in Tier 1-Recognized for the submitting district.

8. How do I know if the certification is aligned to a program of study?

Click [here](#) to see all current TDOE approved CTE Career Clusters, Programs of Study, and standards.

9. How do I know if a job or occupation is considered in-demand?

Click [here](#) to access information from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development on in-demand occupations in Tennessee.

10. Will certifications be added to the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list each year?

Yes, industry certifications will be reviewed annually. However, these reviews will be aligned to the corresponding CTE Career Cluster review cycle. For example, when the Health Science Career Cluster is reviewed, all submitted Health Science student industry certifications and currently promoted student industry certifications will be reviewed and reevaluated at that time. Click [here](#) to see the CTE Career Clusters review cycle.

11. If a certification is approved, how long will it remain on the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list?

If approved under the new criteria and evaluation process, the certification will remain on the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list until it is re-evaluated during the CTE Career Cluster review cycle, click [here](#). Student Industry certifications may be added or removed from the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list at that time.

12. The certification I'd like to submit is already on the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list. Do I need to resubmit?

Certifications that are currently on the 2018-19 Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list do not need to be resubmitted. Currently promoted certifications will remain on the list until reviewed and re-evaluated during the CTE Career Cluster review cycle. Student Industry certifications may be added or removed from the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list at that time.

13. When will we know if the certification has been approved, and?

All submitted certifications will be reviewed once the submission window closes in August. Approved student industry certifications will be published annually with the CTE Career Cluster Matrix after the Fall Tennessee State Board of Education meeting.

14. Is there an appeals process for certifications that are not approved or removed from the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list?

No. There will not be an appeals process for certifications that are not approved or removed from the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list. However, you may resubmit the certification for re-evaluation and review in the next review cycle.

15. What vendors currently have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to share data with TDOE and how can a vendor add a MOA for the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list?

Click [here](#) to see the current list of vendors with MOAs. However, all current MOA's will expire August 30, 2020. TDOE staff will work with these vendors to negotiate a new agreement for the 2020-21 Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list.

If a vendor does not currently have a MOA with TDOE, the MOA template can be found [here](#). All fields highlighted in gray should be completed with the appropriate vendor and included in submission with the related documents. Submission of an MOA does not guarantee approval of a certification.

***NOTE:** Per the minimum requirements for a certification to be considered for the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Certification list, if no data sharing agreement is available for the vendor to share directly with TDOE, the data must be obtainable through district reporting and submission of qualifying documentation of student attainment.

16. This appears to be a lengthy submission process. Do you really need this information and documentation?

Yes. Relevant documentation is necessary to make informed decisions on what is best for Tennessee students.

17. What if I cannot submit all required documentation by the deadline?

If all documentation cannot be uploaded with your submission by the Aug. 24, 2020 deadline, the certification will not be reviewed.