

## Industry Certifications: Myths vs. Facts

MYTH	FACT
<p><b>Myth:</b> Promoting and allowing for industry certifications while in high school is not the responsibility of a school district.</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> 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. 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><b>Myth:</b> Industry certification should be closely aligned to a select set of standards within a course.</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> 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 as a whole. 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><b>Myth:</b> Every program of study or coherent sequence must lead to a certification.</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> It is not a requirement that every program of study or coherent sequence must lead to a certification. 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><b>Myth:</b> 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><b>Fact:</b> 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><b>Myth:</b> The number of certifications our students take affects the CTE or Perkins funding that the school district receives.</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> The number of certifications or licensure exams a district offers its students does not affect funding in any way.</p>