

Industry Certificate Guidebook

Industry Certificate Work Group, January 2015

The information for industry certifications was created by the Graduation Guidelines Industry Certificate Work Group. For a list of the members of the work group or for a copy of [Industry Certification: Implementation Recommendations, Resources, and Tools](#), please click [here](#).

Standards Alignment

In order to use industry certifications as an option to show academic knowledge and skill mastery for graduation, the district should consider validating the academic standards that are aligned in the certification attainment process.

Alignment between an industry certification and academic standards can be challenging:

- Industry certifications measure skills and industry knowledge, which can look different than academic standards.
- Industry certifications vary widely both between and within industries. Alignment to standards may look different for each individual certification.

Consider these resources when aligning academic standards with industry certifications:

- **Industry Certification Governing Body.** The governing body for an industry certification can often provide the specifications of the knowledge and skills that are assessed within the process of attaining the certification. Some may have an existing crosswalk between the technical content and academic standards that are aligned.
- **Colorado Career and Technical Education (CTE).** CTE programs are built from state recognized technical standards. In some programs, these standards are created to align to courses that lead to an industry certification. Industry can play a key role in supporting the development of these programs to ensure that the content covered supports the competencies needed to earn the industry certification. Colorado CTE standards have been cross-walked to Colorado academic standards and can be found at <http://coctestandards.ccs.edu/>
- **Industry representatives.** Representatives who have obtained the certification being considered can assist in identifying the academic content that is addressed in the industry certification process. The O*NET (Occupational Information Network) has resources that provide information on specific skills needed for jobs based on SOC codes (Standard Occupational Classification). O*NET identified skills can be found at <http://www.onetcodeconnector.org/>.

Establish a standards alignment committee for the certification program area whose role is to:

- Document the competencies that are developed and demonstrated through the certification process. These are often identified by the governing body of the certification.
- Identify and document the core competencies that are demonstrated through the attainment of the industry certification. The Colorado academic standards can be found at (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks>)
- Periodically review the identified alignments to maintain relevancy and currency