



INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL INCENTIVE

Model Policy

ExcelinEd Policy Toolkit - 2019

This document contains a model policy for the creation of an incentive to increase the offering and attainment of high-value, in-demand industry-recognized credentials. [Download this model policy as an editable Microsoft Word document.](#)

SUMMARY

The industry-recognized credential incentive grant provides additional funding to school districts and postsecondary institutions where students obtain qualifying industry-recognized credentials. Qualifying industry credentials are high-wage and in-demand, that have been third-party validated by a national or international industry or business association. The policy also proposes the development of articulation agreements to award college credit for approved industry-recognized credentials.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is recommended that this policy should accompany legislation to convene partners across K-12, higher education, and workforce/industry for the development of the list of approved high-value, in-demand (qualifying) industry-recognized credential ([see model policy here](#)). Additionally, it is recommended that the proof of industry-recognized credential be obtained directly from the certifying body and not from self-reported school and district-level data.

MODEL POLICY - INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL INCENTIVE GRANT

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the (state):

Section 1:

- A. It is hereby established an industry-recognized credential incentive grant that provides funds for local education agencies (districts) and institutions of higher education with students obtaining qualifying industry-recognized credentials.
- B. As used in this section, the terms have the following meanings:
 - a. "Industry-recognized credential" means a voluntary process through which students are assessed by an independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies, resulting in the award of a credential that is nationally or internationally recognized and must be at least one of the following:
 - i. Within an industry that addresses a critical local, regional, or statewide economic need;
 - ii. Linked to an occupation that is included in the State Department of Employment Security's occupations in high demand list; or
 - iii. Linked to an occupation that is identified as emerging in workforce demand.
 - b. "Qualifying industry-recognized credential" means an industry-recognized credential that is
 - i. Linked to an occupation with wages of at least seventy percent of the average annual wage in this state unless the industry-recognized credential is stackable to another postsecondary or professional credential which is linked to an occupation which does meet the wage criterion; and
 - ii. Identified as in-demand by the (*department of workforce development*) and business and industry.
 - c. "Institution of higher education" means
 - i. A state university or college, community college, local district college, or area technical college; or
 - ii. A postsecondary career and technical education program.
- C. Beginning in fiscal (*year*) and subject to available funding, the (*department of education*) shall pay an industry-recognized credential incentive grant to the public school for each student enrolled in the public school who earns a qualifying industry-recognized credential. The amount per student for the industry-recognized



- credential incentive grant shall be (*\$ amount*). The maximum amount appropriated for local education agency (district) incentives is (*\$ amount*).
- D. Beginning in fiscal year, (*year*) and subject to available funding the (*department of higher education*) shall pay an industry-recognized credential incentive grant to the institution of higher education who earns a qualifying industry credential. The amount per student for the industry-recognized credential grant for institutions of higher education shall be (*\$ amount*). The maximum amount appropriated for institutions of higher education is (*\$ amount*).
 - E. If the maximum amount appropriated in any fiscal year is insufficient to pay the full amount under Section 1(C) or Section 1(D), the (*department of education*) and (*department of higher education*) shall prorate the amount of its payments among local education agencies (districts) and institutions of higher education eligible for an incentive grant under this section.
 - F. The grants may be used for qualifying industry-recognized credential examination fees, professional development for teachers in career and technical education programs under this section, student instructional support for programs that lead to qualifying industry-recognized credentials, or to increase access to qualifying industry-recognized credentials. Any grants awarded under this section may not be used to supplant funds provided for the basic operation of the career and technical education programs.
 - G. The industry-recognized credential incentive grant shall be paid at times as established by the (*department of education*) and the (*department of higher education*).
 - H. The (*department of education's*) and (*department of higher education's*) qualifying industry-recognized credential list must be published annually on or before (*date*). The list must be developed and approved in collaboration with representatives from institutes of higher education, (*department of workforce development*), and business/industry. If the occupations identified in the list are not substantially the same as those occupations identified in the prior year, the (*department of education*) shall provide reasonable notice of the changes to school districts.
 - I. On or before (*date*) of each year, the (*department of education*) and (*department of higher education*) jointly shall submit a report to the Governor, the (*President of the Senate*), and the (*Speaker of the House of Representatives*) on items such as:
 - a. The number of students who enrolled in a career and technical education course or program that leads to a qualifying industry-recognized credential.
 - b. The number of students who earned a qualifying industry-recognized credential by credential.
 - c. The amount of career and technical education incentive grants awarded by school, local education agency (district) and institution of higher education.
 - d. The amount of career and technical education incentive grants awarded per student.
 - e. Aggregated demographic data on the students who earned a qualifying industry-recognized credential including the qualifying industry-recognized credentials earned by historically underserved students and rural and urban students.
 - J. On or before (*date*) the (*department of education*) and (*department of higher education*), in collaboration with (*department of workforce development*) and business/industry must sign articulation agreements agreeing upon college credit for agreed upon industry-recognized credentials.

Section 2:

The Act becomes effective _____.