

Process for Approval of Industry Certifications/Credentials for Inclusion in College and Career-Ready Indicator on SC Report Card School Year 2023-24

Per the SC accountability system, high schools receive an indicator rating for College/Career Readiness, which is the percentage of students in the 9GR who are college- or career-ready. While there are several metrics that can define “career ready,” a student may be deemed “career-ready” if the high school graduate is a Career and Technical Education (CTE) completer and, where applicable, has earned a national industry credential (or state if national not available) as determined by the business community.

Following vetting by groups at the SC Chamber of Commerce and the EEDA Coordinating Council, the EOC approved certifications/credentials on the following schedule:

School Year	New Certifications Approved
2017-18	130
2018-19	34
2019-20	80 (approved by EOC April 2019)

No approval of new certifications has occurred for School Years 2020-21, 2021-22, or 2022-23. The combined impact of COVID and the sunset of the EEDA Coordinating Council was an impediment to the process of industry vetting.

The SCDE has submitted a list of 75 certifications/credentials to be submitted for the current school year. EOC staff recommends the process outlined in the table below be used to consider these new certifications.

The EOC is expected to receive the proposed Stackable Credentials system for consideration in February 2024. At that time, the process by which credentials and certifications are vetted prior to EOC receipt is likely to change.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Deadline
SCDE submits certification(s) to EOC for consideration for approval	Director, SCDE Career and Technology Education (CTE) Office	August 1, 2023
EOC reviews list and submits to SC Future Makers and SC Competes for industry personnel review by cluster	Executive Director, EOC	August 15, 2023
SC Future Makers, working with outside industry groups, conducts review of certifications submitted using designated Tiers proposed by SREB in Stackable Credential system (see note 1); submits	Executive Director, SC Future Makers	September 15, 2023

list to EOC staff for additional review		
EOC submits recommendations to ASA/PA Subcommittee for approval	Executive Director, EOC	November 13, 2023
Subcommittee recommendations to full EOC for approval; final approved list sent to SCDE offices	Executive Director, EOC	December 11, 2023

Note 1. SC’s Proposed Tiering Language (expected to be considered by EOC in February 2024)

South Carolina’s Proposed Tiering Language

Tier 1—Introductory	Tier 2—Intermediate	Tier 3—Career Ready
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The credential measures basic skills. 2. The credential is recognized by local/regional industries. 3. The credential can be obtained in the early stages (first or second course) of a program of study. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The credential is aligned with industry-recognized standards. 2. The credential is endorsed by a national industry or trade association or a major employer in the state. 3. The credential holder is given job consideration. 4. The credential leads to improved social outcomes such as improved health and well-being. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is transparent evidence the competencies held by the credential holder align with the anticipated job opportunities. 2. The credential is required for employment or advanced training. 3. The outcomes for credential holders are wage gains, promotion, or retention supporting a family-sustaining wage for South Carolina. 4. The credential leads to additional education and training. (Stackable) 5. The credential is granted to those that complete a training program and related assessments are administered by a third party with no connection to the test-taker.