

Chapter 74. Curriculum Requirements

Subchapter AA. Commissioner's Rules on College and Career Readiness

§74.1001. College Readiness Vertical Team.

- (a) Purpose. In accordance with the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.008, the purpose of a college readiness vertical team is to develop or establish standards and expectations designed to ensure that graduates of Texas high schools are able to perform college-level course work at institutions of higher education.
- (b) Composition.
 - (1) The college readiness vertical team shall be comprised of four subject-specific vertical teams, one each to address English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
 - (2) Each subject-specific vertical team shall be composed of a minimum of eight and a maximum of 20 members per team who represent:
 - (A) all levels of secondary public education;
 - (B) institutions of higher education;
 - (C) a balance between small and large districts;
 - (D) various geographic regions of the state; and
 - (E) the overall demographics of the state.
 - (3) A maximum of 60% of each subject-specific vertical team's membership shall be composed of faculty from institutions of higher education.
 - (4) Upon completion of the development of college readiness standards as required in the TEC, §28.008(b)(1), the subject-specific vertical teams shall be reconstituted to include a maximum of 60% secondary public education teachers employed full time in Texas public schools. The reconstituted teams shall complete duties as defined in the TEC, §28.008(b)(2)-(5).
 - (5) Representatives from each of the four subject-specific vertical teams shall form a leadership team for the purpose of alignment across English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- (c) Appointment.
 - (1) The commissioner of education shall determine the criteria for selecting public education members for the college readiness vertical team.
 - (2) The commissioner of education shall solicit recommendations for possible appointees to the college readiness vertical team from the State Board of Education (SBOE), school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, the business community, and educational organizations in Texas. Recommendations may be accepted from any Texas resident. Nominations shall not be made by or accepted from any textbook publishers; authors; depositories; agents for textbook publishers, authors, or depositories; or any person who holds any official position with a textbook publisher, author, depository, or agent.
 - (3) The SBOE shall be notified of appointments made by the commissioner of education to the college readiness vertical team.
 - (4) Initial appointments to the college readiness vertical team shall be made no later than January 7, 2007, or as soon as practicable.
 - (5) Public education members of the college readiness vertical team may be removed or replaced at the discretion of the commissioner of education.
- (d) Duties.

- (1) The college readiness vertical team shall carry out the duties as defined in the TEC, §28.008(b).
- (2) In accordance with the TEC, §28.008(f), the duties of the college readiness vertical team shall be concluded no later than September 1, 2011.
- (3) Members of the subject-specific vertical teams may be required to be present at the SBOE meeting at which standards developed or established by the teams are presented or considered for approval.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §74.1001 issued under the Texas Education Code, §28.008.

Source: The provisions of this §74.1001 adopted to be effective January 7, 2007, 31 TexReg 10797.

§74.1003. Industry-Based Certifications for Public School Accountability.

- (a) The following terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.
 - (1) High-skill occupation--an occupation that requires a degree, credential, or training beyond a high school diploma as noted in ONET as Job Zone 3 or higher.
 - (2) High-wage occupation--an occupation associated with a median wage at or above the statewide median wage of all occupations in Texas as determined by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
 - (3) In-demand certification--a certification determined to be in demand by the United States Department of Labor, through CareerOneStop.
 - (4) In-demand occupation--a high-growth occupation as defined by TWC.
- (b) Industry-based certifications to be used in the public school accountability system shall be categorized as follows using U.S. Department of Labor and TWC data with thresholds determined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
 - (1) A Tier 1 certification meets the criteria in subsection (d)(1)-(5) of this section and:
 - (A) is an in-demand certification directly aligned to a high-wage occupation; and
 - (B) does not require curriculum (whether purchased as a package or to access the certification assessment), unless the curriculum is required by a Texas or federal government agency, or a registered apprenticeship.
 - (2) A Tier 2 certification meets the criteria in subsection (d)(1)-(5) of this section and is directly aligned to an occupation that:
 - (A) is either:
 - (i) in demand and high wage; or
 - (ii) high skill; and
 - (B) does not require curriculum (whether purchased as a package or to access the certification assessment), unless the curriculum is required by a Texas or federal government agency, or a registered apprenticeship.
 - (3) A Tier 3 certification meets criteria in subsection (d)(1)-(5) of this section and:
 - (A) does not meet indicators in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection; or
 - (B) requires curriculum (whether purchased as a package or to access the certification assessment).
- (c) The list of industry-based certifications to be used in the public school accountability system shall be reviewed and updated every five years beginning in 2028.
- (d) Certifications recognized for the purpose of public school accountability in the 2025-2026 through the 2029-2030 school years shall meet the following criteria.

- (1) Certification. A certification is defined as a validation or license that indicates an individual possesses certain industry-specific skills and that meets the following criteria:
 - (A) the certification is:
 - (i) related to the performance requirements of a specific occupation and measured against a set of industry-accepted standards; and
 - (ii) earned by successfully completing an assessment that is provided by or evaluated by an independent, third-party certifying entity and demonstrates an individual's proficiency of the prescribed standards; or
 - (B) the certification is issued by the State of Texas and requires students to demonstrate proficiency of the prescribed standards through courses within a TEA-approved statewide or regional program of study.
- (2) Industry recognized and valued. A certification is industry recognized and valued if:
 - (A) the certification is a license awarded by the State of Texas or the federal government;
 - (B) the certification is included on the Department of Labor's CareerOneStop Certifications List as being:
 - (i) third-party industry-endorsed; or
 - (ii) in demand;
 - (C) the certification is included on TWC's Eligible Training Provider List;
 - (D) the certification is referred to TEA by TWC as a result of determined correlation between certification attainment and job-related salary;
 - (E) a certifying entity provides evidence of industry recognition and value that is validated by TEA; or
 - (F) the certification is referred to TEA by TWC as part of the inventory of industry-recognized credentials approved by the industry-based certification advisory council authorized by Texas Labor Code, §312.002, and meets indicators in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E) of this paragraph.
- (3) Attainable by a high school student. A certification is attainable by a high school student if the certification:
 - (A) does not require a bachelor's degree;
 - (B) does not require over 1,500 hours of documented work, unless the certifying entity provides verifiable documented evidence that Texas high school students have earned the certification in one of the past two years;
 - (C) does not require a certification applicant to be 21 years of age or over; and
 - (D) coursework is not required after a student graduates from high school.
- (4) Portable. The certification:
 - (A) can be transferred seamlessly to postsecondary work through acceptance for one or more core program courses at a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges-accredited institution of higher education and verified through the institution of higher education's website;
 - (B) counts toward a minimum of 5% of the hours required in an aligned apprenticeship program and can be verified through the apprenticeship's website;
 - (C) is part of a prescribed coherent sequence of industry-recognized credentials to show progressive skills development such as I, II, and III or User, Associate, and Professional;

- (D) is documented by TWC as supporting employment in more than one region of the state; or
- (E) is a license awarded by the State of Texas or the federal government.
- (5) Capstone or end-of-program. A certification assessment is taken at the culmination of a single high school course or multiple related courses within a secondary program of study. There must be at least 50% alignment between the certification assessment standards and the identified occupation-specific student expectations within at least one Level 3 or 4 course in a program of study.
- (e) An industry-based certification that aligns with an approved regional program of study and meets the criteria in subsection (d)(1)-(3) and (5) of this section but does not meet the criterion in subsection (d)(4) of this section may be approved as a regional industry-based certification.
- (f) Certifications recognized for the purpose of public school accountability in the 2022-2023 through the 2024-2025 school years shall meet the following criteria.
 - (1) Certification. A certification is defined as a validation or license that indicates an individual possesses certain industry-specific skills and that meets two or more of the following criteria:
 - (A) the certification is related to the performance requirements of a career or occupation, measured against a set of industry-accepted standards, and not dependent upon a particular curriculum or program;
 - (B) the certification is earned by successfully completing an assessment that demonstrates an individual's proficiency of the prescribed standards; or
 - (C) the certification is a time-limited credential that must be maintained through ongoing professional training and/or testing requirements.
 - (2) Industry recognized and valued.
 - (A) A certification is industry recognized and valued if the certification is:
 - (i) referred to TEA:
 - (I) by TWC as part of the inventory of industry-recognized credentials approved by the industry-based certification advisory council authorized by Texas Labor Code, §312.002; or
 - (II) directly using a process identified and implemented by TEA and published on the TEA website if the certification is not referred to TEA by TWC under subclause (I) of this clause; and
 - (ii) determined to be valued by a representative sample of employers, as demonstrated in at least one of the following ways:
 - (I) inclusion of the certification in job postings as required or highly recommended;
 - (II) use of the certification as a factor in selecting candidates for an interview or for hire; or
 - (III) offer of higher pay for individuals who possess the certification.
 - (B) If a determination of value under subparagraph (A)(ii) of this paragraph is not made prior to referral under subparagraph (A)(i)(I) of this paragraph, TEA may use a third-party organization with expertise in gathering information from employers related to the value of industry-based certifications to directly contact groups of employers and report to TEA regarding whether the standards under subparagraph (A)(ii) of this paragraph have been met.

- (3) Attainable by a high school student. All eligibility requirements such as age and experience can be met and the certification awarded before or within the summer after a student's high school graduation.
- (4) Portable. The certification can:
 - (A) be transferred seamlessly to postsecondary work through acceptance for credit or hours in core program courses at an institution of higher education;
 - (B) be counted toward hours in an aligned apprenticeship program;
 - (C) be part of a prescribed coherent sequence of industry-recognized credentials to show progressive skills development; or
 - (D) support employment in more than one region of the state.
- (5) Certifying entity. The assessment of the knowledge and skills required to obtain the certification is provided by or determined by an independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies.
- (6) Capstone or end-of-program. A certification assessment is taken at the culmination of a single high school course or multiple related courses within a secondary program of study. There must be at least 50% overlap between the certification assessment standards and:
 - (A) the essential knowledge and skills for a secondary course aligned to the career cluster associated with the certification assessment; or
 - (B) the applicable essential knowledge and skills for a set of courses within a program of study in a secondary career and technical education program.
- (g) A credential shall not be included on the list of industry-based certifications for public school accountability if:
 - (1) the assessment for the credential is open book, open reference, or allows limitless retake opportunities without remediation or remuneration; or
 - (2) the credential is designed for high school students and not attainable by adults.
- (h) An industry-based certification that is not placed on the initial list of industry-based certifications for public school accountability may be re-evaluated in accordance with a process and timeline determined by TEA and published on the TEA website at the conclusion of the initial evaluation.
- (i) The commissioner of education may request a determination from the industry-based certification advisory council authorized by Texas Labor Code, §312.002, of the appropriate tier for any industry-based certification that appears to be too high or too low. The industry-based certification advisory council may, by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the full council, change the tier determination for a certification referred by the commissioner.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §74.1003 issued under the Texas Education Code, §39.001 and §39.053.

Source: The provisions of this §74.1003 adopted to be effective January 3, 2018, 42 TexReg 7686; amended to be effective August 23, 2020, 45 TexReg 5640; amended to be effective January 9, 2022, 46 TexReg 9286; amended to be effective June 11, 2025, 50 TexReg 3453.

§74.1005. College and Career Funding and Reimbursements.

- (a) Applicability. The provisions of this section apply to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.
- (b) Eligibility for funding.
 - (1) A district is eligible to receive funding under Texas Education Code (TEC), §48.106(a), for students in Grades 7-12 who take an approved career and technical education (CTE) course designated with an "H" in the CTE Course column of the Texas Education Data Standards, Section 4, Service-ID (CO22) code table.

- (2) A district is eligible to receive funding under TEC, §48.106(a)(2)(A), for an advanced CTE course identified as Level 3 or Level 4 in a statewide CTE program of study.
 - (3) A district is eligible to receive funding under TEC, §48.106(a)(2)(B), for a campus that has been designated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) for the current school year or a student who completes a course of study in a P-TECH program or a Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership program.
- (c) Eligibility for reimbursement.
- (1) A district is eligible to receive a certification examination reimbursement for a certification identified on the TEA list of industry-based certifications (IBCs) for public school accountability, pursuant to §74.1003 of this title (relating to Industry-Based Certifications for Public School Accountability).
 - (A) A district is eligible to receive the certification examination reimbursement for students in Grades 9-12 who pass an examination beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.
 - (B) Examinations must be taken between September 1 and August 31 of any school year.
 - (C) A district is eligible for reimbursement for a student's first and second examinations reported in the Texas Student Data System Public Education Information Management System with an associated dollar amount.
 - (2) A district is eligible to receive a reimbursement for a college preparation assessment administered under TEC, §39.0261(a)(3)(A), for fees paid by the district for the state negotiated rate for the SAT® or ACT® for students in spring of their junior year or during their senior year.
 - (A) Assessment reimbursement only includes the standard SAT® and ACT® test. Additional costs such as writing tests, subject area tests, or late fees are not eligible for reimbursement.
 - (B) A student must take the assessment between January of Grade 11 and August 31 of the year the student graduates.
 - (3) A district is eligible to receive a reimbursement for a college preparation assessment administered under TEC, §39.0261(a)(3)(B), for fees paid by the district for the Texas Success Initiative Assessment for students in spring of their junior year or during their senior year.
 - (A) Assessment reimbursement includes both the reading and mathematics portions of the examination. Neither portion is eligible for reimbursement on its own, and additional costs such as writing tests and late fees are not eligible for reimbursement.
 - (B) A student must take the assessment between January of Grade 11 and August 31 of the year the student graduates.
 - (4) A district is eligible to receive reimbursement for a nationally recognized career readiness assessment administered under TEC, §39.0261(a)(3)(C), for fees paid by the district for the assessment for students in spring of their junior year or during their senior year.
 - (A) Assessment reimbursement only includes the required primary assessments(s) associated with the TEA-identified nationally recognized career readiness assessment. Additional costs such as subject area tests or late fees are not eligible for reimbursement.
 - (B) A student must take the assessment between January of Grade 11 and August 31 of the year the student graduates.
 - (5) A district may only be reimbursed under this subsection for up to two IBC examinations per student and one college preparation assessment or one career readiness assessment per student.
 - (6) A district must submit reimbursement requests and data in accordance with instructions provided by TEA within the published timeline.
- (d) Final decisions. Reimbursement decisions are final and may not be appealed.

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Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §74.1005 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§29.190(a)(2) and (a-1), 39.0261(a)(3), 48.106(a)(1), 48.155, and 48.156 as amended by HB 2 and HB 120, 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

Source: The provisions of this §74.1005 adopted to be effective October 13, 2020, 45 TexReg 7247; amended to be effective May 24, 2026, 51 TexReg 3372.

§74.1007. College, Career, or Military Readiness Outcomes Bonus.

- (a) The standards and thresholds established by the commissioner of education under Texas Education Code (TEC), §48.110(b)(1)-(3); (c); (f)(1)(A) and (B), (2)(A) and (B), and (3)(A) and (B); and (g), shall be used to calculate annual college, career, or military readiness outcomes bonuses for school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.
- (b) The threshold percentages of annual graduates who demonstrate college, career, or military readiness as provided in subsection (c) of this section for each of the following cohorts are as follows:
 - (1) 11% of annual graduates who are educationally disadvantaged;
 - (2) 24% of annual graduates who are not educationally disadvantaged; and
 - (3) 0% of annual graduates who are enrolled in a special education program under TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A, regardless of whether the annual graduates are educationally disadvantaged.
- (c) An annual graduate demonstrates:
 - (1) college readiness if the annual graduate:
 - (A) both:
 - (i) achieves college readiness standards used for accountability purposes under TEC, Chapter 39, on the ACT, the SAT, or an assessment instrument designated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) under TEC, §51.334; and
 - (ii) enrolls at a postsecondary educational institution by the tenth instructional day of the fall semester immediately following high school graduation; or
 - (B) earns an associate degree by August 31 immediately following high school graduation;
 - (2) career readiness if the annual graduate:
 - (A) achieves college readiness standards used for accountability purposes under TEC, Chapter 39, on the ACT, the SAT, or an assessment instrument designated by THECB under TEC, §51.334; and
 - (B) earns an industry-based certification or a level I or level II certificate by August 31 immediately following high school graduation; and
 - (3) military readiness if the annual graduate enlists in the armed forces of the United States or the Texas National Guard by December 31 immediately following high school graduation.
- (d) Each year, the commissioner shall determine for each school district and open-enrollment charter school the minimum number of annual graduates in each cohort described by subsection (b) of this section who would have to demonstrate college, career, or military readiness as described by subsection (c) of this section in order for the district or charter school to achieve a percentage of college, career, or military readiness for that cohort equal to the threshold percentage established for that cohort under subsection (b) of this section. Each year, the number of annual graduates in excess of the threshold percentage for each cohort provided in subsection (b)(1)-(3) of this section will be used to calculate college, career, or military readiness outcomes bonus funding for the applicable fiscal year.
- (e) Each June, beginning in June 2021, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall supply school districts and open-enrollment charter schools with a preliminary College, Career, or Military Readiness Outcomes

Bonus Student Listing that provides the data used by TEA to calculate preliminary funding for the upcoming school year.

- (1) Upon release of the preliminary listing, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools have 30 days to file an appeal of student-level data. School districts and open-enrollment charter schools must file an appeal and submit all supporting documentation within 30 days of the release of the preliminary listing.
 - (2) An appeal must be filed by following the instructions provided with the release of the student listing. The basis for appeals should be a data or calculation error attributable to TEA or a testing contractor.
 - (3) The appeals process is not a permissible method to correct data that were inaccurately reported to TEA by the school district or open-enrollment charter school. A school district or open-enrollment charter school that submits inaccurate data must follow the procedures and timelines for resubmitting data as specified in the Texas Education Data Standards. Appeals from school districts and open-enrollment charter schools that missed data resubmission window opportunities will be denied.
 - (4) Decisions regarding appeals are final and not subject to further appeal.
 - (5) Due to the delay in data availability for enrollment in institutions of higher education (IHEs), preliminary College, Career, or Military Readiness Outcomes Bonus Student Listings will not include IHE enrollment. For 2019 annual graduates, TEA will use a two-year IHE enrollment average for each school district. Beginning with 2020 annual graduates, TEA will use a three-year IHE enrollment average for each school district.
 - (6) Each year, upon receipt of IHE enrollment data, TEA will reconcile College, Career, or Military Readiness Outcomes Bonus Student Listings with actual enrollment data for the applicable graduating class. Upon reconciliation, the college, career, or military readiness outcomes bonus funding will be updated for the applicable fiscal year.
- (f) Due to discrepancies between annual enlistment counts for Texas military enlistees aged 17-19 released by the United States Department of Defense and Texas Student Data System Public Education Information Management System military enlistment data for 2017 and 2018 annual graduates, TEA will exclude military enlistment data from College, Career, or Military Readiness Outcomes Bonus Student Listings as provided in subsection (e) of this section until such data can be obtained directly from the United States Armed Forces. Upon receipt of such data, previously released final College, Career, or Military Readiness Outcomes Bonus Student Listings will be updated to include military enlistment data. When the final College, Career, or Military Readiness Outcomes Bonus Student Listings are updated, as provided in this subsection, the number of annual graduates in excess of the threshold percentage for each cohort provided in subsection (b)(1)-(3) of this section will be updated and used to recalculate college, career, or military readiness outcomes bonus funding for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and applicable future fiscal years.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §74.1007 issued under the Texas Education Code, §48.110(b)(1)-(3); (c); (f)(1)(A) and (B), (2)(A) and (B), and (3)(A) and (B); and (g).

Source: The provisions of this §74.1007 adopted to be effective March 23, 2021, 46 TexReg 1735; amended to be effective January 25, 2022, 47 TexReg 151.