

*For Your Information . . .*

## Valuing Student Obtained Industry Credentials

(State Licensure, Occupational Competency Assessment, Workforce Readiness Skills)

### In a School's Final Accreditation Score

- This bill **will not** change any of the current requirements, factors or benchmarks in the Virginia Department of Education school accreditation process.
- A school must reach the **minimum accreditation score status** before this additional recognition will occur. The process can only be used to improve a school's final ranking, not obtain a minimum accreditation status.
- This bill will improve a school's accreditation ranking by providing a more **comprehensive picture of their graduates' abilities in both college and career readiness**.
- The processes and procedures for providing industry credentials (including various state licenses and occupational competency exams) and the data collection are **already in place**.
- The growth of Virginia's business community and economy require not only an academic knowledge and completion rate ranking system but also **technical skill attainment**.  
**Including the performance abilities of graduates in the final quality ranking of schools is a must.**

*By the Numbers . . .*

- There are over **350 Industry Credentials (including various state licenses)** on the Board of Education approved list. This includes the multi-state, Virginia Workplace Readiness Skills assessment. Credentialing assessments are available in the 16 Career Clusters ranging from accounting to license practical nursing to welding.
- 45% of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Completers (students completing a state-approved sequence of CTE courses) received an Advanced Studies Diploma.
- On average, less than 30% of Virginia's students graduate with industry credential in 2010.
- On average, if 25% of the diploma graduates had a credential, a school's overall accreditation score would increase by 1 point\*. If 100% of all diploma graduates had a credential a schools overall accreditation score would increase by 4-5 points\*.
- Over the past seven years, students obtaining industry credentials have increased from 500 to 36,719 in 2011.
- An industry credential combined with a standard credit for a CTE course can be used as a verified credit for graduation.

For additional information, contact the Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education

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