

Florida Credentials Review Committee

Overview of Duties

The 2021 Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act establishes the duties of the Florida Credentials Review Committee.

Establish a Definition for Credentials of Value and Create a Framework of Quality

The Credentials Review Committee is tasked with formalizing a definition of value that will be applied in a **Framework of Quality** to evaluate credentials for inclusion on a **Master Credentials List** for the state of Florida.

The Framework of Quality is a rubric by which credentials are evaluated for inclusion on the Master Credentials List and must align with federally funded workforce accountability requirements.

Statute states that nondegree credentials should require:

1. Evidence the credential meets labor market demand as defined by the Labor Market Estimating Conference or meets local demand as identified by criteria established by the Credentials Review Committee.
2. Evidence the competencies mastered upon completion of the credential are aligned with labor market demand.
3. Evidence of employment and earnings outcomes for individuals obtaining the credential and evidence that earnings outcomes meet middle- to high-level wages. Preference is given to credentials generating high-level wages.
 - Credentials that do not meet the earnings outcome criteria must be part of a sequence of credentials required for the next level occupation that does meet the earnings outcome criteria established by the Credentials Review Committee.

The Credentials Review Committee will establish criteria to determine value for degree programs. As with nondegree credentials, this criteria shall include evidence the degree program meets the labor market demand as defined by the Labor Market Estimating Conference or meets local demand as identified by criteria established by the Credentials Review Committee.

The Credentials Review Committee also will establish a process for prioritizing nondegree and degree credentials based on critical statewide or regional shortages.

Establish Timely Processes

The Credentials Review Committee shall establish processes for:

1. Quarterly review and approval of credential applications. Approved credentials will be added to the Master Credentials List.

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2. Annual review of the Master Credentials List and the phasing out of credentials that no longer meet the Framework of Quality.
3. Submitting the Master Credentials List to the State Board of Education.
4. Designating performance funding eligibility as defined by the Returned-Value Funding Formula established by the Credentials Review Committee.

Establish CIP to SOC Linkage

The Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code identifies all educational programs of study and is established by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. The Standard Occupational Classifications (SOC) code is established by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and is assigned to each unique occupation. A CIP to SOC linkage allows for the identification of all occupations linked to an individual education program. Floridians interested in a specific occupation can find the most closely linked programs of study to pursue. As part of the Framework of Quality, the CIP to SOC linkage also will allow programs of study to be linked to demand occupations and earnings outcomes.

Identify Data Elements Necessary to Collect Information on Credentials

The Credentials Review Committee has the authority to identify any data elements that need to be collected on credentials to support the definition of credentials of value or the Framework of Quality. The Florida Education and Training Placement Program will provide requested data to the Credentials Review Committee or establish data collection protocols in order to collect the requested data.

Develop a Returned-Value Funding Formula

The Returned-Value Funding Formula determines how school districts and the Florida College System are funded for industry certifications earned by students. One-third of funds shall be allocated based on student job placements and the remaining two-thirds shall be allocated using a tiered weighting system based on aggregate student wages that exceed minimum wage, with the highest weight applied to the highest wage tier, and with additional weight for underserved populations. Student wages above minimum wage are considered to be the value added by the institution's training. The formula must consider variables such as differences in population and wages across school districts and the state. When developing the formula, the committee may not penalize school districts or the Florida College System institutions if students postpone employment to continue their education.