

IRC Redesign FAQ

1. What is the timeline for implementing the new credential list?

The new graduation criteria and credential list are effective for each student entering ninth grade this fall. Students in the class of 2030 will need to use the new list of credentials if they plan to use credentials as a part of their pathway to graduation. Students graduating in prior cohorts (2027, 2028 or 2029) will be able to use whichever pathway provides them the best pathway to graduation.

2. What is the new graduation criteria for industry-recognized credentials?

Students entering ninth grade after July 1, 2026 and using industry-recognized credentials as a pathway to graduation fulfill the graduation requirement when they earn either a single, approved standalone credential or an approved bundle of credentials.

3. I have credential programs already in place for my ninth graders this year that don't currently appear on the standalone or bundle list of credentials. Can I still deliver that program to my students?

Yes, you can. If you would like for that credential program to be considered for an approved bundle of credentials, the Department will be releasing an application for new credential bundles on August 1, 2026. This application will be open through October 31, 2026.

4. Will there be an opportunity for schools, businesses, or vendors to apply for new credentials or additional bundles?

Yes. The Department will open an application for new industry-recognized credentials and new bundles of industry-recognized credentials on August 1, 2026. Just like the prior list, the Department will be consistently accepting applications for new standalone credentials and bundles for approval. This application will also include a credential modification application for currently bundle eligible credentials to be considered for standalone designation.

5. Where can I find the data used to make decisions on whether a credential was assigned standalone, bundle eligible, or not eligible?

All data is available in the Department's data tool which will be posted in the coming days.

6. What is the expected impact for districts using old credential pathways?

Schools and districts may have significant numbers of students using credentials as a pathway to graduation. Schools and districts are encouraged to review their data, in collaboration with supports from the Department, to determine if those credential pathways are still available under the new list and criteria. If those pathways are not still

available to students, the Department is prepared to support districts in building new pathways for students in the classes of 2030 and beyond. The Department expects that significant numbers of schools and districts will need to develop new pathways to graduation for students.

7. What technical assistance will there be for school districts to make the transition?

The Department will be rolling out direct support for school districts in the coming weeks. This will involve hands-on technical assistance for select districts, regional convenings, development tools, and quick start guides for credential implementation. Information about school district support will be available on the Department's [website](#).

8. What is the Industry-Recognized Credential Review Committee?

The K-12 Industry-Recognized Credential Review Committee is established by [Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.6113](#). The IRC Committee is a group of industry and state organizations that set the criteria and design the lists for credentials to be used towards high school graduation. The groups represented are:

- Healthcare Career Collaborative of Central Ohio
- JobsOhio
- National Federation of Independent Business
- Ohio Business Roundtable
- Ohio Chamber of Commerce
- Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
- Ohio Farm Bureau
- Ohio Manufacturers' Association
- Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation