



Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Certification Workgroup Meeting

Meeting Minutes
December 11th, 2025
1:00pm – 2:00pm EST

Via Zoom

Attendees: Laurie Mays, Correy Eimer, Dorian Moe, Justin Browning, Regina Phillips

Staff: Debbie Dennison, LaChrista Ellis

Welcome and Workgroup Overview

Cathy Hoehn, Education Academic Program Manager, CTE Programs & Pathways Branch Office of Career and Technical Education, opened the meeting by welcoming participants and acknowledging the value of their time and contributions. She outlined the primary purpose of the workgroup is to review industry certifications recommended by the Business Education Alignment Taskforce (BEAT) for inclusion on [Kentucky's valid industry certification list](#).

Industry Certification List Process & Flow Chart

Ms. Hoehn detailed the step-by-step process for reviewing and approving industry certifications, including initial submission, local workforce innovation board review, program consultant research, BEAT team evaluation, and final consideration by the CTE Certification Workgroup and Education Attainment Committee before reaching the full KWIB board. She emphasized that the process is continuous and includes periodic reviews to maintain relevance, accuracy, and alignment with industry standards.

Application Update Mock-Up Review

Debbie Dennison, Deputy Executive Director, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB), presented proposed updates to the online certification application. Recommended changes include: adding fields for certification justification, occupational title, and SIP/SOC codes, and removing the requirement to identify a requesting school district. The workgroup did not have any additional changes or requests to the form. KWIB staff will move to update the online form with the changes.

BEAT Recommendations

The workgroup reviewed BEAT team recommendations across multiple program areas:

- **Agriculture:** The Produce Best Practices Training (PBPT) from the University of Kentucky was recommended as a standalone assessment for the plant science pathway.

- The FAA Remote Pilot Certification was not recommended to certify due to insufficient alignment and implementation challenges.
- **Computer Science:** Adoption of the CertiPort Generative AI Foundation certification as a core stacked credential was recommended, along with the CertiPort Pearson IT Specialist AI certification. The CompTIA IT Fundamentals certification name was updated to CompTIA Tech Plus to reflect a vendor naming change.
- **Fire Science:** Removal of OSHA 10 from the fire science and firefighting pathway was recommended, with a phase-out date of June 2027, while retaining it in other pathways.
- **Manufacturing:** The Haas certification was affirmed as highly valuable, with expanded proctoring opportunities identified.
- **Media Arts:** The FAA Remote Pilot Certification was recommended for inclusion as part of stacked credentials due to increased use of drone technology.
- **TRAC Certificate:** Continued recognition as a post-secondary readiness indicator was affirmed. It was recommended that each TRAC certificate be explicitly listed on the valid industry certification list to ensure consistency across all applicable pathways.

Lean Six Sigma Yellow, Green, and Black Belt certifications were identified as pending, with program consultants tasked to research pathway alignment and present findings to their respective BEAT teams.

Discussion & Questions

There was a request for further clarification regarding the FAA Remote Pilot Certification for Agriculture, specifically about the challenges of implementation. Ms. Hoehn explained that limited instructional time and the need for teacher upskilling were primary barriers, but noted the recommendation could be revisited as standards evolve.

Consistent certification naming to support automated systems that integrate data from multiple sources was lifted as essential. Discussion was had around businesses submitting a certification application, and Ms. Hoehn confirmed that having businesses submit reflects employer demand. We must make sure that vendors, however, do not submit on their own behalf as part of their sales initiatives, as they may not align with existing pathways or may be duplicative to other existing certifications.

Concerns were raised about regional versus statewide applicability. Ms. Hoehn assured the group that BEAT reviews consider transferability and statewide relevance, citing the HAAS certification as an example of a credential that initially appeared regionally limited but was later validated for broader use.

Correy Eimer, Associate Director, Workforce Development, Northern Kentucky, moved to accept the recommendations as presented, and Laurie Mays, Senior Workforce Development Project Manager, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Foundation, seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Adjournment 1:41 pm

Debbie Dennison thanked participants and acknowledged Cathy Hoehn and her team for their leadership and coordination throughout the process. She confirmed that the BEAT recommendations would advance to the Education Attainment Committee for consideration prior to sending to the February KWIB meeting. The meeting concluded with closing remarks, holiday well wishes, and safe travel reminders.

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Certification Workgroup Meeting

AGENDA

December 11th, 2025
1:00pm – 2:00pm EST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84369184554?pwd=pMNCiNiOb2g0LqimpYYnxTzKCdISiY.1>

Meeting ID: 843 6918 4554 Passcode: 663678

1:00pm Welcome and Overview of Workgroup Objectives.....*Cathy Hoehn*
Education Academic Program Manager
CTE Programs & Pathways Branch
Office of Career and Technical Education

1:05pm Industry Certification List Process & Flow Chart*Cathy Hoehn*

1:10pm Certification Submission Process.....*Cathy Hoehn*

1:15pm Application Update Mock-Up Review.....*Debbie Dennison*
Deputy Executive Director
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)

1:25pm BEAT Recommendations (Voting Required).....*Cathy Hoehn*

1:45pm Discussion & Questions.....*Workgroup Members*

2:00pm Adjournment.....*Cathy Hoehn*

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certification

Recommendations:

The BEAT team has reviewed the following certification applications and made recommendations for the approval of the CTE Certification Review workgroup.

Industry Certification Name	Industry Certification Program Area	Recommended Industry Certification List?
UK Produce Best Practices Training (PBPT)	Agriculture	Recommend as a standalone assessment; strong pathway alignment and immediate post-graduation value
FAA Remote Pilot	Agriculture	Do not recommend; insufficient alignment with agriculture standards and implementation concerns.
Certiport - Generative AI Foundations Certification	Computer Science	Recommend as a core stacked credential validating ethical and foundational AI knowledge.
Certiport -Pearson IT Specialist AI Certification	Computer Science	Recommend stacked with Generative AI Foundations; confirms responsible and professional AI knowledge.
OSHA 10	Law & Public Safety	Recommend removal; phase-out June 2027 due to hiring, instructor eligibility, and feasibility concerns.
HAAS Basic Mill Operator	Manufacturing	Recommend; industry values credential and supports workforce entry.

HAAS Basic Lathe Operator	Manufacturing	Recommend; highly valued credential with immediate employment relevance.
FAA Remote Pilot	Media Arts	Recommend; drone technology is emerging and should be added as part of stacked credentials.
TRACK Youth Apprenticeship Certification	Multi	Recommend as standalone Postsecondary Readiness Indicator; each certificate listed individually on Valid Industry Certification List.
Lean Six Sigma	Multi	Pending BEAT recommendation.

Recommended

- UK Produce Best Practices Training (PBPT) – Industry Certification Program Area: Agriculture - standalone assessment, strong pathway alignment, immediate post-graduation value.
- Certiport - Generative AI Foundations Certification – Industry Certification Program Area: Computer Science - core stacked credential, ethical and foundational AI knowledge.
- Certiport - Pearson IT Specialist AI Certification – Industry Certification Program Area: Computer Science - stacked with Generative AI Foundations, confirms responsible and professional AI knowledge.
- HAAS Basic Mill Operator – Industry Certification Program Area: Manufacturing - industry values credential, supports workforce entry.
- HAAS Basic Lathe Operator – Industry Certification Program Area: Manufacturing - highly valued, immediate employment relevance.
- FAA Remote Pilot – Industry Certification Program Area: Media Arts - emerging drone technology, add as part of stacked credentials.
- TRACK Youth Apprenticeship Certification – Industry Certification Program Area: Multi - standalone Postsecondary Readiness Indicator, each certificate listed individually on Valid Industry Certification List.

Pending / Under Review

- Lean Six Sigma – Industry Certification Program Area: Multi - pending BEAT recommendation.

Phase-Out

- OSHA 10 – Industry Certification Program Area: Law & Public Safety - scheduled to phase out by June 2027 due to hiring, instructor eligibility, and feasibility concerns.

Removal / Not Recommended

- FAA Remote Pilot – Industry Certification Program Area: Agriculture - insufficient alignment with agriculture standards, implementation concerns.

Career and Technical Education Certification Programs

Industry Certification Program Area

➤ Certiport – Generative AI Foundations Certification

- **Website:** <https://certiport.pearsonvue.com/Blog/2024/September/Introducing-the-Generative-AI-Foundations-Cert.aspx>
- **Recognized by:** a consortium of companies requesting including Eyeconic, Inc. and the South Central Kentucky Regional Technology Council
- **Workforce Areas:** South Central
- **Previous Program Status:** N/A

➤ Certiport – Pearson IT Specialist AI Certification

- **Description:** Artificial Intelligence Professional Exam
- **Website:** <https://certiport.filecamp.com/s/i/n4mlgs8hJG6DV8kl/s/m40yiexUc78ZJ5qG>
- **Recognized by:** A consortium of companies requesting including Eyeconic, Inc. and the South Central Kentucky Regional Technology Council.
- **Workforce Areas:** South Central
- **Previous Program Status:** N/A

➤ HAAS Basic Mill Operator and HAAS Lathe Operator

- **Description:** These courses are designed to provide the basic knowledge necessary to get started as a CNC machine operator or CNC machinist. They offer basic machine operation, proper safety, and fundamental machining processes including programming, metrology, blueprint reading, basic math, and materials. After the online course is completed, a hands-on test is given at an authorized facility. There is no cost for this certificate.
- **Website:** <https://learn.haascnc.com>
- **Recognized by:** C&R Machine & Fabrication LLC
- **Workforce Areas:** Bluegrass
- **Previous Program Status:** No

➤ HAAS Basic Mill Operator and HAAS Lathe Operator

- **Description:** No Cost
- **Website:** <https://learn.haascnc.com>
- **Recognized by:** Machine Time Inc.
- **Workforce Areas:** Bluegrass
- **Previous Program Status:** No

➤ Produce Best Practices Training (PBPT)

- **Description:** Produce safety / \$500-\$1,000
- **Website** with additional information about certification - <https://fsic.ca.uky.edu/training/food-safety-regulation>
- **Recognized by:** and requesting the certification - Hallow Springs Farm

- **Workforce Area:** Cumberlands
- **Previous Program Status:** No

➤ Unmanned Aircraft General - Small (UAG)

- **Description:** \$150 test fee
- **Website:** https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/become_a_drone_pilot
- **Recognized by:** Casey County Cooperative Extension Service/Casey County Schools
- **Workforce Area:** Cumberlands
- **Previously Program Status:** No

Based on the information we received from the CTE Director, the FAA Remote Pilot Certificate is already on the Valid Industry Certification List. It's aligned with several pathways and is even designated as High Demand. The certification process involves students obtaining an FAA Tracking Number, taking and passing the Unmanned Aircraft General – Small (UAG) knowledge test, and then completing FAA Form 8710-13 to receive their Remote Pilot Certificate.



CTE Certification Continuous Improvement Workgroup Meeting

December 12, 2025



Sub-Committee Membership

Name	Affiliation
Matt Bacon	CareerTeam
Justin Browning	Barren County Schools
Tricia Davis	Dept. of Workforce Development
Misty Edwards	EDWC Proprietary Education
Correy Eimer	Northern KY LWDA
Cathy Hoehn	OCTE Career Programs & Pathways
Beth Engle	OCTE Division Director
Beth Hargis	OCTE Associate Commissioner
Kim Humphrey	River View Coal

Name	Affiliation
Suhas Kulkarni	Indus, Inc.
Joanna Morris	KCTCS
Lorraine O'Moore	Learning Grove
Regina Phillips	KentuckianaWorks
Scott Pierce	Labor
Jon Sowards	WFD Director – S. Central
Tom Thompson	OCTE Division Director
Sara Tracy	KY Chamber Foundation
Myra Wilson	Cumberlands LWDA



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KDE Office of Career and Technical Education Team

- ❑ Cathy Hoehn* – Branch Manager, Career Programs & Pathways
- ❑ Tom Thompson – Division Director, Student Transition & Career Readiness
- ❑ Amy Tracy- Data Manager, OCTE
- ❑ Beth Engle- Division Director, Technical Schools & Continuous Improvement
- ❑ Lauren Graves- Executive Advisor, OCTE
- ❑ Beth Hargis – Associate Commissioner, OCTE

* Primary Point of Contact

Certification Submissions Process

1. Uniform submission process
 - Contact information
 - Local workforce development area
 - Certification information
 - Business/Industry requesting the certification
2. Submission form on KWIB website
 - KWIB will distribute recommendations to local WIBs
3. KWIB send to OCTE
 - Consultants review with BEAT team

1

Kentucky's K-12 Industry Certification Approval

Recommendations from Local Workforce Innovation Boards (LWIB) - requested by business & industry

Recommendations from Surveys

Vendor Changes that Prompt Changes/Removal

2

Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) sends to KWIB.Projects@ky.gov

3

Business & Education Alignment Taskforce (BEAT) Review / Update & Recommend

4

5

KWIB Workgroup & Committee Review to Make Recommendations

6

Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board Votes

Vote No:
Office of KWIB
Notifies Applicant

Vote Yes:
Certification(s) Added /
New List Published

*On-going reviews between OCTE Consultant & BEAT teams

For more information please visit
<https://kwib.ky.gov/Pages/CTE-Certification-Process.aspx>

Process aligned pursuant to KRS 158.6455.

Process occurs annually, with additions/changes considered by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) on a quarterly basis (workgroup to meet 6-8 weeks prior to quarterly KWIB meetings, when necessary).

KDE Program Consultants & BEAT Teams

- Agriculture – Kristan Wright
- Business & Marketing – Angela Rush
- Computer Science/Media Arts – Tabitha Berger*
- Construction – Larry Huckaby
- Engineering – Roger Taylor
- Family & Consumer Science – Kayla Howard

KDE Program Consultants & BEAT Teams

- Health Science – Joyce Parker
- JROTC – Colonel Timothy McDonald
- Law & Public Safety – Erica Settelen
- Manufacturing – Barry Bond
- Teaching & Learning – Bree Massie*
- Transportation – Robert “Marty” Nolan

Industry Certification Requests

Agriculture

Industry Certification: UK Produce Best Practices (PBPT)

BEAT recommends the certification as a standalone credential.

Pathway: Plant Science Systems – 01.1101.00

Agriculture

Industry Certifications: FAA Remote Pilot

The BEAT does not recommend this certification for any of their career pathways.



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Computer Science

Industry Certification: Certiport – Generative AI Foundations Certification

The BEAT recommends the certification be added to existing stacked credentials.

Pathways:

1. Computer Programming -11.0201.01
2. Cybersecurity - 14.0902.00
3. Data Science - 11.0802.00
4. Digital Design & Game Development - 36.0113.00
5. Information Support & Services - 47.0104.01
6. Network Administration - 11.0901.01
7. Network Security - 11.1003.00
8. Web Development/Administration - 11.0801.00

Computer Science

Industry Certification: Certiport – Generative AI Foundations AND Certification and Certiport – Pearson IT Specialist AI Certifications

The BEAT recommends the certification as a stacked credential.

Pathway: Artificial Intelligence – 11.0102.01

Computer Science

Industry Certification: CompTIA IT Fundamentals

The OCTE recommends renaming the credential to
CompTIA Tech Plus.

**Pathway: Computer Programming – 11.0201.01 and Cybersecurity
– 14.0902.00**

Law & Public Safety

Industry Certification: OSHA 10

The BEAT recommends removing OSHA 10 from the existing stacked credentials.

Pathway: Fire Science/Firefighting – 43.0203.00

Manufacturing

Industry Certification: HAAS Basic Mill Operator AND HAAS Basic Lathe Operator

The BEAT recommends the certification be added to existing stacked credentials.

Pathways: Computer Numerical (CNC) Operator – 48.0503.04 and Machinist Operator – 48.0503.02

Media Arts

Industry Certification: FAA Remote Pilot

The BEAT recommends the certification be added to existing stacked credentials.

Pathway: Cinematography & Video Production – 09.0701.00, Graphic Design – 50.0401.00, and Interactive Media – 10.0304.00



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Multi CTE Pathways

Industry Certification: TRACK Youth Apprenticeship

The OCTE recommends including all TRACK Youth Apprenticeship on the Valid Industry Certification List.

Pathways:

1. Agriculture – 01.0101.99	7. Business – 52.0101.99
2. Consumer & Family Services – 19.0403.99	8. Marketing – 52.1400.99
3. Culinary & Food Services – 12.0500.99	9. Engineering – 15.0000.99
4. Early Childhood Education – 13.1210.99	10. Law & Public Safety – 43.9999.99
5. Health Science – 51.9900.99	11. Automotive Technology – 47.0600.99
6. Computer Science – 11.0101.99	



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Multi CTE Pathways

Industry Certification: Lean Six Sigma – Yellow, Green, and Black Belts

Pending BEAT Review

Questions

Stay Connected...



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[KY Office of Career and Technical Education](https://www.facebook.com/KYOfficeofCareerandTechnicalEducation)



<https://bit.ly/41i0iXz>

Thank you for supporting Kentucky's Career & Technical Education!

Cathy Hoehn

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Proposed Updates to the KWIB CTE Certification Application

New Fields to Add:

1. Justification for Adding Credential (Required):

- **Field Type:** Multi-line text box (open response).
- **Purpose:** Allows applicants to provide a clear explanation of why the requested credential should be added, including its value to workforce readiness, employer demand, and alignment with industry standards.

Example Prompt:

“Please justify why this credential should be added. Include details such as demand from employers, evidence of industry recognition, or relevance to high-growth occupations in Kentucky.”

2. Occupational Title (Required):

- **Field Type:** Text field with drop-down option (if a standardized list is available; otherwise, free text).
- **Purpose:** Identifies the occupational title(s) that align with the requested credential, ensuring that submissions can be categorized within labor market and CTE pathways.

Example Prompt:

“Please list the occupational title(s) this credential aligns with (e.g., Welder, Registered Nurse, Information Security Analyst).”

3. CIP and/or SOC Code (Required if available)

- **Field Type:** Numerical field
- **Purpose:** Enable stakeholders to connect submitted credentials to standardized occupational and instructional data for analysis, reporting, and validation of relevance to Kentucky’s workforce needs.

Example Prompt:

“Please provide the CIP code (for education pathway) and /or SOC code (for occupation) associated with this credential, if available.

Field to Remove from Existing Webform:

1. Name of school district seeking use of certification, if applicable

This field should be removed, as it is no longer needed under the updated application structure.

Mock-Up of Form Section

Certification Information (no change):

- Name of Certification
- Description of Certification and Cost, if applicable
- Website with additional information about certification
- Name of Kentucky Business/Industry Recognizing and requesting the certification

➤ **Proposed Additions (new fields would appear here):**

**Justification for Adding Credential:*

[]
[]
[]

**Occupational Title:*

[]
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**CIP (if available):*

[]
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**SOC Code (if available):*

[]
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Benefits of Adding These Fields

- Strengthens the application process by requiring applicants to demonstrate **need and relevance**.
- Improves transparency in decision-making by linking credentials directly to **workforce demand**.
- Enhances **data collection for analysis** and reporting by associating certifications with occupational titles.
- Enhances **data collection and analysis** by associating certifications with occupational titles and standardized codes (CIP/SOC).
- Supports alignment between **education and labor market data systems**, enabling better reporting and strategic planning.