



Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Certification Workgroup Meeting

Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2026
1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Via Zoom

Attendees: Cathy Hoehn, Kevin Smith, Chris Sanders, J.C. Gregory, Kevin Middleton, Summer Morgan, Tom Thompson, Sen. Jimmy Higdon

Staff: Debbie Dennison, Elishah Taylor, LaChrista Ellis, Sara Jagers

Welcome and Workgroup Overview

Debbie Dennison, Deputy Executive Director, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board, welcomed members to the CTE Certification Workgroup. She provided an overview of the group's purpose: to support the ongoing development and maintenance of Kentucky's [Valid Industry Certification List](#).

Industry Certification List Process & Flow Chart

Cathy Hoehn, Education Academic Program Manager, CTE Programs & Pathways Branch Office of Career and Technical Education, provided an overview of the industry certification review process and explained the dynamic role of the Business Education Alignment Taskforce (BEAT), the CTE Certification Workgroup, the Education Committee, and the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) in maintaining Kentucky's Valid Industry Certification List.

BEAT Recommendations

The Workgroup reviewed six BEAT recommendations:

- **American MedTech Registered Phlebotomy Technician (RPT):** Recommended for denial due to the certification's requirement of 50 venipunctures, which exceeds current certification requirements and presents challenges for schools to meet within existing program schedules.
- **American MedTech Certified Medical Laboratory Assistant (CMLA):** Recommended for denial because clinical placement opportunities are limited, as many laboratories restrict access for minors.
- **NCCER Electronic Systems Technician:** Recommended for removal from the Valid Industry Certification List effective July 2028 due to the deprecation of the Electronics Technology pathway and overlap with existing foundational NCCER coursework.
- **FANUC Certification Update:** A vendor name change was acknowledged, renaming the FANUC Certified Robot Operator 1 certification to the NOCTI FANUC Certified Robot Operator with RoboGuide. No changes were made to certification content or expectations.

- **IC3 GS5 and GS6 Certifications (Levels 2 and 3):** Recommended for removal from Computer Science pathways effective June 2028 due to changes in the Computer Science Modernization Framework and the removal of the Digital Literacy course from Computer Science pathways.
- **Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt:** Recommended for inclusion as a stackable credential in both Computer Science and Business & Marketing pathways. Higher-level Green and Black Belt certifications were not recommended because they exceed the intended scope of secondary-level instruction.

Members discussed the health science recommendations, including clinical placement restrictions and certification requirements. Questions were raised regarding laboratory access for minors and the increased venipuncture requirement associated with the American MedTech credential.

A motion was made by Kevin Middleton and seconded by J.C. Gregory to approve the six BEAT recommendations as presented. The motion carried without objection. The recommendations approved will advance to the Education Committee for consideration, before presenting them to the KWIB Board at the August meeting.

Evaluation Form Discussion

Tom Thompson, Director, Division of Student Transition and Career Readiness, Office of Career and Technical Education, introduced the concept of developing a standardized rubric for evaluating industry certification applications. Drawing on examples from other states, the proposed rubric would provide a consistent framework for local workforce boards, BEAT teams, and review committees when assessing certifications. Members expressed support for further exploration of the idea and requested additional information for review.

Discussion and Questions

Members discussed the potential benefits of creating a consistent framework for certification evaluation. There was support for the concept and the importance of ensuring that any rubric aligns with the needs and criteria of the various program-area BEAT teams. It was expressed that a standardized review process could improve transparency and provide clearer guidance to applicants, reviewers, and stakeholders throughout the certification approval process. Additional examples and draft materials will be shared with the workgroup for feedback and consideration.

Chris Sanders, Executive Director, ELC Office of Educational Programs, shared a brief overview of Kentucky's Learning and Employment Records (LER) pilot projects. He explained how standardized credential information could help strengthen credential transparency, digital skill records, and future talent marketplace efforts. Members recognized the connection between the proposed rubric and ongoing statewide work.

Adjournment 1:38 PM

Debbie Dennison thanked members for their participation and support of the workgroup's continuous improvement efforts before adjourning the meeting.