



LWIB-KWIB-KDE High Demand Certifications

Minutes
February 25, 2025
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

Via Zoom

ATTENDEES: DR. BETH HARGIS, SAM KEATHLEY, DENISE DIALS, JILL GRAY, JUSTIN SUTTLES, MARY ANNE MEDLOCK, SHEILA CLARK, MICHELLE DRAKE, ROLANDO THACKER, ANTHONY HELLMUELLER, JON SOWARDS, PAULA PAYNE, MELINDA FORD, CORREY EIMER, SARAH EHRESMAN, MATT BERRY, MICHELLE DEJOHN

STAFF: ALISHER BURIKHANOV, DEBBIE DENNISON, LACHRISTA ELLIS

Welcome

Alisher Burikhanov, Executive Director of the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB), welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining for the discussion. He introduced himself and reviewed the agenda. He set the expectation to review data, determine in-demand occupations, and determine in-demand certification.

Alisher mentioned the on-going collaboration with the **Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)** and the **Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS)** before introducing **Sam Keathley, Sr. Workforce Analyst, KYSTATS**. He emphasized that Sam and KYSTATS work closely with the KWIB to assist the workforce system and provide a backbone for all data needs.

Alisher stated that feedback on this project is needed by April 30th with the goal of making this an annual process.

He turned the meeting over to **Dr. Beth Hargis Associate Commissioner of the Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) at KDE** to further explain the purpose of the project.

High-Demand Certification Requirement

Dr. Beth Hargis thanked everyone for attending and emphasized the importance of discussing the reasoning behind the high-demand certification requirement. She referenced [KRS 158.6455](#) and Senate Bill 25 from 2023, a state accountability bill, which mandates that students must achieve industry-recognized certification to demonstrate readiness. Details of this requirement are outlined in 703 KAR 5:270. The approval process involves working with the KWIB to determine what constitutes a high demand occupation. Local areas are requested to collaborate and provide input on high-demand certifications from their regions. Dr. Hargis provided examples of high-demand areas that may not be traditionally recognized as such, giving the opportunity to understand local needs better.

Data Overview

The meeting was turned over to **Sam Keathley**. Sam introduced himself and acknowledged the collaboration between KDE and KWIB. He emphasized that the data shared speaks largely to occupational trends. Sam walked through the excel spreadsheet included in the briefing packet, highlighting various data elements such as KY Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Codes, 2022 Estimated Employment, 2032 Projected Employment, Percent Change, Change (Economic Growth), Exits, Demand, Transfers, Total Job Openings, Entry Annual Wages, Typical Work Experience, On-the-Job Training, and Key Sectors.

Next Steps

Alisher walked through the documents for review, including "CTE 2024-2025 Valid Industry Certifications (version 1.0)" and "Kentucky's Top Five In-Demand Sectors." He asked the group to review the online certifications and determine if they are "high demand" or not for their local area. He requested their feedback by April 30, 2025. Alisher mentioned the importance of fine-tuning a process annually and encouraged feedback from the group. There was a discussion about the approval process, with some participants recalling that local boards had to review a similar list in the past.

A request was made that each local workforce development board, in conjunction with local economic development organizations, shall annually compile a list of industry-recognized certifications, licensures, and credentials specific to the state and regional workforce area, rank them by demand, and provide the list to the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board. KDE, in conjunction with the KWIB, will review and may revise the lists before disseminating them to all school districts for use as postsecondary readiness indicators.

Adjournment

Alisher noted that the annual review is worthwhile and will incorporate recommendations from the group. He requested that everyone review the materials and send their feedback by April 30. Alisher also asked for the directors to communicate if they needed time to take to their local boards. He emphasized the importance of making an annual process efficient and will be sending a reminder email in the next couple of weeks of the request.

Dr. Hargis added her contact information in the chat and thanked everyone and acknowledged the work done by KYSTATS.

AGENDA
February 25, 2025
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST
Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81571049060?pwd=PQ5zCab9rQABxTsKKJL7ghNtORo7mD.1>

Meeting ID: 815 7104 9060 | Passcode: 406492

2:00 pm **Group Welcome**

*Alisher Burikhanov, Executive Director
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board*

2:10 pm **High-Demand Certification Requirement**

*Dr. Beth Hargis, Associate Commissioner
Office of Career and Technical Education
Kentucky Department of Education*

Relevant Information:

[KRS 158.6455](#)

2:20 pm **Data Overview**

*Sam Keathley, Senior Workforce Analyst
Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS)*

2:40 pm **Next Steps**

Dr. Hargis & Alisher Burikhanov

Relevant Documents for Review:

- [CTE 2024-2025 Valid Industry Certifications \(version 1.0\)](#)
- [Kentucky's Top Five In-Demand Sectors](#)
- [KYSTATS Occupation Estimates List](#)

3:00 pm **Adjournment**