



Update regarding the recent Ohio Department of Education & Workforce changes to Industry-Recognized Credentials for Class of 2030 and beyond.

As many of you are aware, the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce (ODEW) has recently updated the Industry-Recognized Credentials (IRC) process for the Class of 2030 and beyond.

Our team is working directly with ODEW as we navigate the new process for IRC as a pathway to graduation. The new changes do not impact the Class of 2027, 2028 and 2029.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- While the ProStart Certificate of Achievement (CM03) has not yet been approved as part of a bundle credential for the Class of 2030, we are optimistic ProStart, paired with ServSafe certifications, will become a bundled Industry-Recognized Credential in the second round of approvals.
- The ProStart Certificate of Achievement and ServSafe certifications retain the previously approved graduation point values for the Classes of 2027, 2028 and 2029.

WHAT WE KNOW RIGHT NOW

- The IRC committee completed the first round of approved standalone and bundled credentials for the Class of 2030 and beyond.
- ODEW shared with our team that the number of first round approvals was intentionally conversative, focusing their approvals on standalone credentials. Many more standalone and bundled credentials are expected to be added in the second round.
- ODEW is now accepting applications for the second round of standalone and bundle credentials. Approval letters will be sent from ODEW in January 2027.
- We are submitting an application for ProStart Certificate of Achievement and multiple ServSafe certifications to be combined into an approved bundle.
- ODEW shared that the second round will be both data-driven AND industry-driven, as they are now accepting letters of support from employers, educators and more as part of the process.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

Please send us your letter of support by September 4, 2026 to include in our application. All applications must include "A signed letter(s) from an Ohio School District, Career Technical Planning District, or Community School indicating that, if approved, this credential will be implemented at an Ohio School."

We will continue to update you as we learn more information, submit our application, and if we require additional support.

As always, please reach out with any questions. We are grateful for each one of you - your students are lucky to have such an impactful educator in their corner.