

**Discussion and approval of Local Alternative Graduation Criteria under TAC §74.1027  
May 11, 2026**

1. Board Goal : Domain 1: High Quality Curriculum And Effective Instruction – Goal #5  
(College, Career, and Military Readiness)

2. Background:

Texas Administrative Code §74.1027 allows school districts to award a high school diploma to eligible individuals who entered Grade 9 prior to the 2011–2012 school year and met all graduation coursework requirements but did not meet assessment requirements. The rule permits districts to recognize TEA-approved pathways, including industry-based certifications, or to establish locally developed criteria with Board approval.

The TEA Industry-Based Certification (IBC) list used for accountability does not include all workforce credentials, such as certain state-issued licenses and certifications aligned to high-demand industries. As a result, some former students who have demonstrated readiness through rigorous workforce training programs are not currently able to qualify under existing criteria. This proposal establishes locally approved criteria to recognize qualifying workforce credentials as evidence of demonstrated competency, providing a pathway for eligible former students to earn a high school diploma.

3. Process:

The proposed criteria were developed through a review of Texas Administrative Code §74.1027 and TEA guidance regarding alternate graduation requirements. District leadership analyzed current limitations within the TEA Industry-Based Certification (IBC) list and identified a need to recognize additional workforce-aligned credentials that demonstrate verified competency and established career readiness. A student may satisfy alternate graduation requirements through attainment of a qualifying workforce credential, provided all criteria below are met:

**1. Recognized Issuing Authority**

The credential must be issued or endorsed by a: state agency, Federal agency, Nationally recognized industry organization, Accredited training provider aligned to workforce standards

**2. Verified Competency Requirement**

The credential must require demonstrated mastery, not just participation, through: written examination, performance-based assessment, skills demonstration OR documented graded performance indicating successful completion, certificates of completion must be accompanied by documentation verifying successful demonstration of competency.

**3. Workforce Relevance**

The credential must: lead to employment in a high-demand, high-skill, or high-wage industry, and represent completion of a structured training or licensure pathway

**4. Academic Skill Alignment**

The credential must reasonably demonstrate application of: reading comprehension, applied mathematics, problem-solving and critical thinking

**5. Documentation Requirements**

The student must provide: An official certificate, license, or credential AND evidence of competency (e.g., sealed grade report, exam results, skills verification, or licensure)

4. Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this proposal. Implementation will be managed using existing district personnel and resources.

5. Recommendation:

Administration recommends approval of the locally developed alternative graduation criteria under TAC §74.1027 to allow the district to recognize qualifying workforce credentials as evidence of demonstrated competency and career readiness for eligible individuals.

6. Action Required:

Action Required

7. Contact:

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