

## South Carolina Tiered Certification Framework One-Pager

### A brief overview of the new Tiered Certification Framework

#### Purpose of the Tiered Certification Framework

South Carolina is transitioning to a Tiered Certification Framework for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2024-25 (9GR25) school year or later. This framework will:

- Provide a transparent process linking student certifications to workforce priorities in the State.
- Align with Perkins V and the Career Opportunity Act.
- Support preparing students for high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand careers.

#### Tiering System

Certifications are assigned Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3. Each tier reflects the certification’s relevance to high-demand, high-wage occupations and its impact on future employability.

- Tier 1 – Introductory: Foundational skills, entry level, 1 point.
- Tier 2 – Intermediate: Industry-aligned, supports career pathways, 2 points.
- Tier 3 – Career Ready: High-demand careers, economic benefit, 3 points.

#### Tiered Certification Student Requirements

Program completer students must earn a minimum of 3 points to be considered “Career Ready.” Students can earn the minimum 3 points in one of the following ways:

- Earn one Tier 3 certification aligned to their chosen career program or cluster.
- Earn a combination of two Tier 2 certifications or a Tier 2 and a Tier 1 certification aligned to their chosen career program or cluster.
- Earn a combination of a Universal certification and a Tier 2 certification aligned to their chosen career program or cluster.

The 3-point requirement ensures that students are earning certifications that are relevant and will prepare them for success in their future career pathway.

**Note: Students cannot combine multiple Tier 1 or Universal certifications to meet the 3-point requirement.**

#### Links

Approved Tiered Certification List: [bit.ly/sctieredcertifications](https://bit.ly/sctieredcertifications)

Tiered Certification Application (add new or modify certifications): [bit.ly/sccertificationapplication](https://bit.ly/sccertificationapplication)