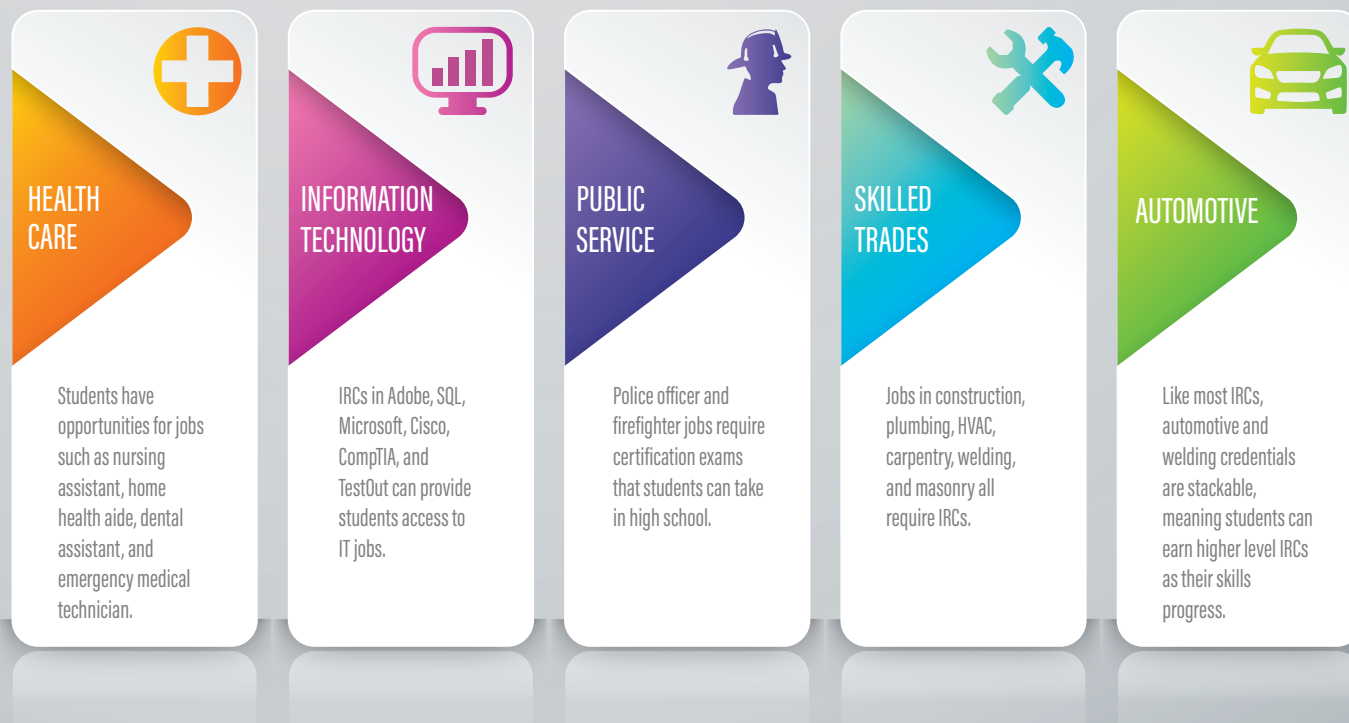


IRCs OPEN THE DOOR TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Industry-recognized credentials (IRCs) are awarded by various professional groups as proof that a student has acquired the skills and knowledge needed to perform a certain job.
- High school students enrolled in career and technical education (CTE) programs can earn IRCs, usually by passing a credentialing exam written by professionals in their field.
- IRCs signify to employers—who are looking for qualified applicants to fill well-paying positions—that a student is ready to work.
- Unfortunately, most students in Missouri CTE programs don't earn IRCs in high school. This often means that they have to spend additional time and money on postsecondary education programs before they can enter their chosen field.

Here are just some of the many careers high-school graduates can enter with an IRC:



27,437 Missouri high-school students completed three or more CTE classes during the 2016–2017 school year, but only 8,565 IRCs were awarded.



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