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:



Students have opportunities for jobs such as nursing assistant, home health aide, dental assistant, and emergency medical technician.



IRCs in Adobe, SQL, Microsoft, Cisco, CompTIA, and TestOut can provide students access to IT jobs.



Police officer and firefighter jobs require certification exams that students can take in high school.



Jobs in construction, plumbing, HVAC, carpentry, welding, and masonry all require IRCs.



Like most IRCs, automotive and welding credentials are stackable, meaning students can earn higher level IRCs as their skills progress. 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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