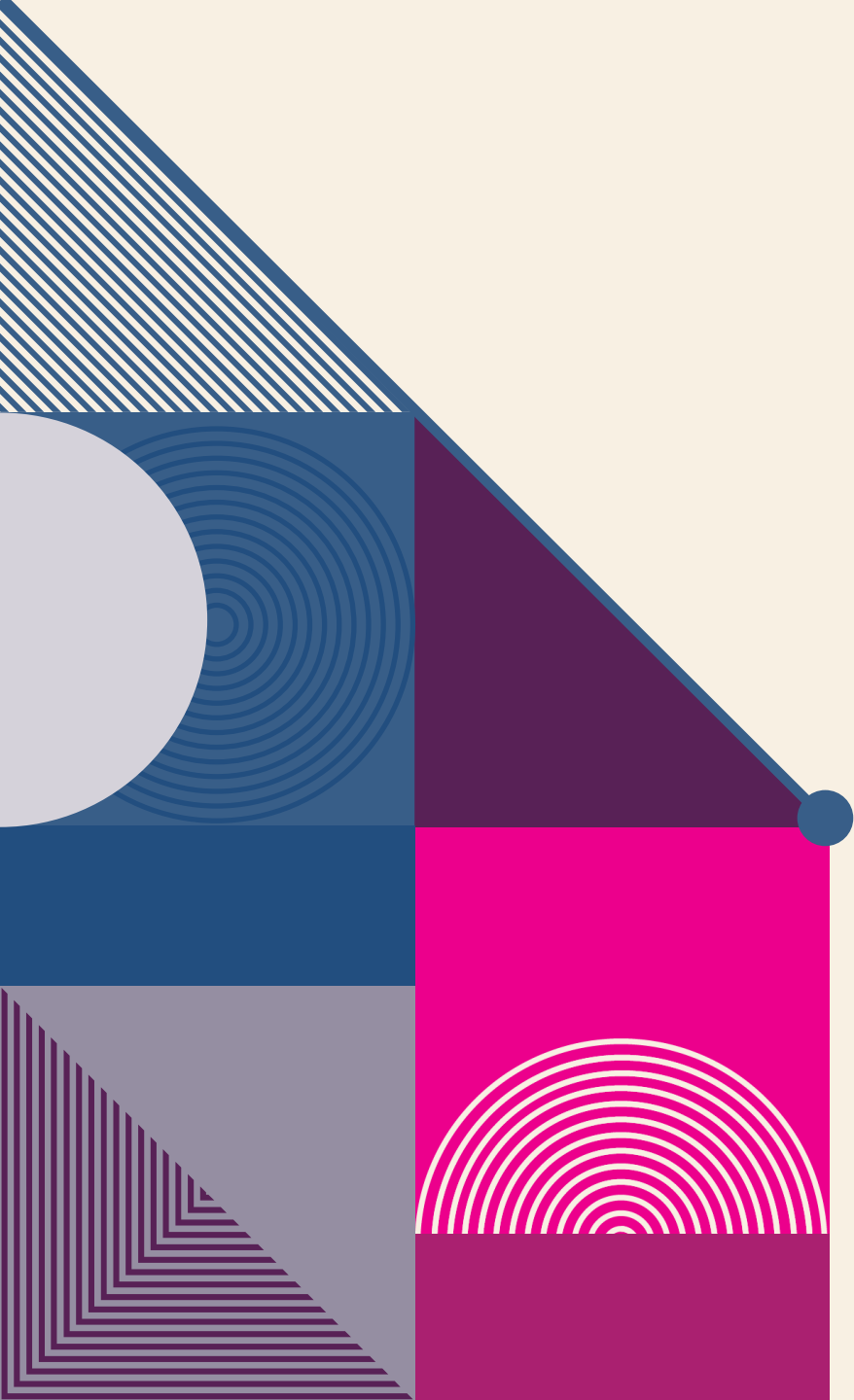


An abstract geometric design on the left side of the slide. It features a dark blue background with various geometric shapes and patterns. A white circle is positioned near the top left. Below it, a light blue semi-circle is visible. To the right of the semi-circle, there is a pink area with diagonal lines. Further down, there are more geometric shapes, including a pink square with a pattern of concentric lines and a dark blue triangle. The overall design is modern and minimalist.

ACCEPTABLE CREDENTIALS



TOPICS

Introduction

State Guidance

Acceptable Credentials

Unacceptable Credentials

MSG vs. Credential

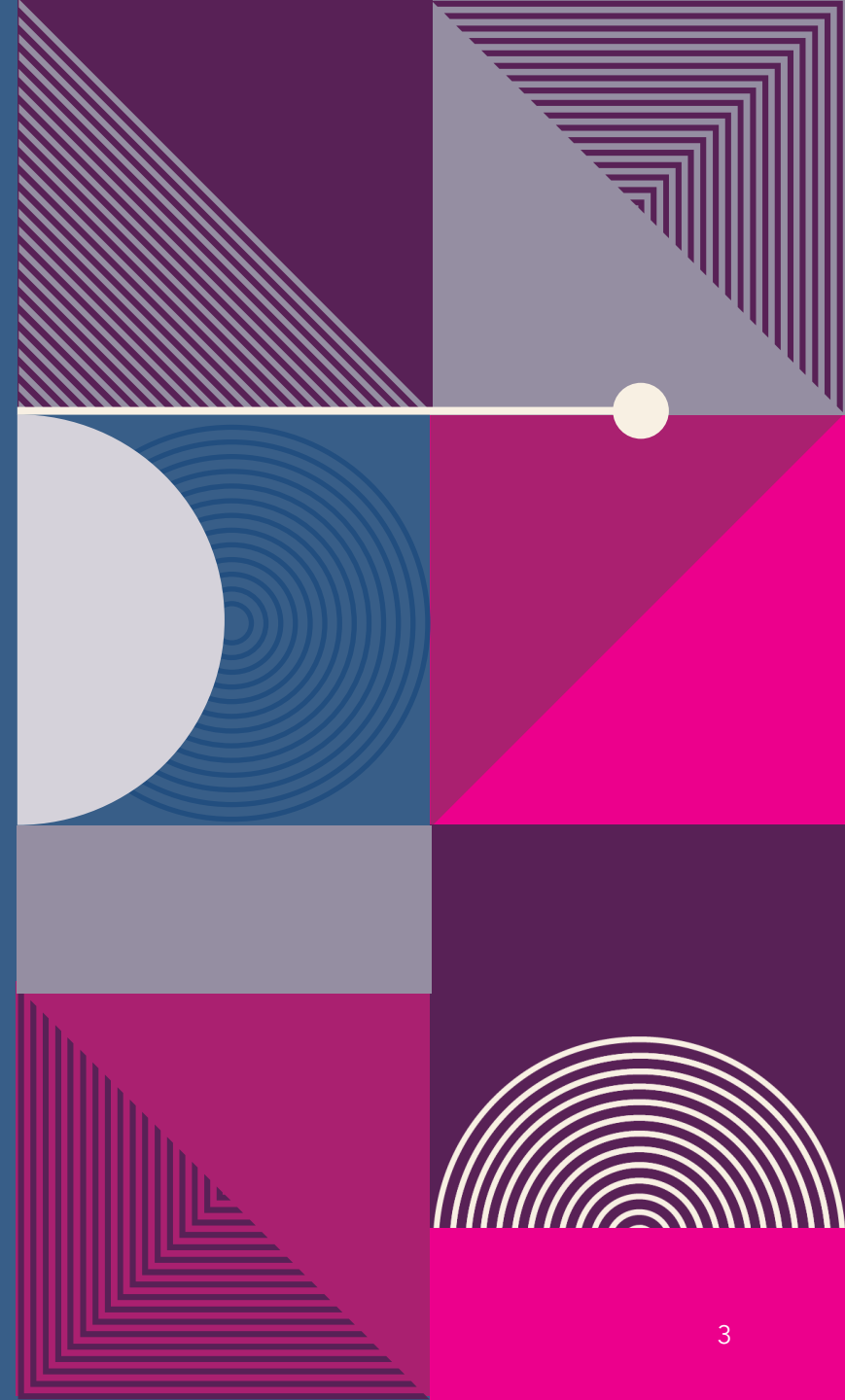
In-School Youth

Summary

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with WIOA law and federal and state guidance, credentials submitted for WIOA participants across all programs must be **nationally recognized** to count as a positive for the WIOA credential performance metric.

Nationally recognized refers to a credential that will be accepted as a qualification for the career position sought in any state or area, not just Kentucky. It is typically seen as one of the base requirements for the position across the board.



STATE OF KENTUCKY GUIDANCE

Since 2005, when Kentucky implemented Common Measures, the attainment of Degree/Credential measure has not been a required measure. However, the Department of Labor Guidance 16-001 Eff 4/1/2016 has continued the effort in analyzing this data for reporting purposes. **Under WIOA, the credential is now a required measure; therefore, the collection of this data is mandatory.** When documenting the credential for a participant, the collection of the credential/attainment or degree MUST include:

- A copy of the credential document must be uploaded into the Case Management System of Record, OR
- A case note documenting that the participant received a credential and the type of credential

attained and date attained, as verified by school

AND

- Documentation of the credential on the Outcomes Tab in Case Management System of Record (KEESuite).

The credential must be a nationally recognized credential. Please note that OJT/NCRC/Workkeys certificates DO NOT count as a credential.

REFERENCES: WIOA Section 116 (29 USC Section 3141)

WIOA GUIDANCE

29 USC 3141: Performance accountability system

Text contains those laws in effect on February 24, 2026

(IV) the percentage of program participants who obtain a **recognized** postsecondary credential, or a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (subject to clause (iii)), during participation in or within 1 year after exit from the program;

(V) the percentage of program participants who, during a program year, are in an education or training program that leads to a **recognized** postsecondary credential or employment and who are achieving measurable skill gains toward such a credential or employment

(4) Definitions of indicators of performance

(A) In general

In order to ensure nationwide comparability of performance data, **the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, after consultation with representatives described in subparagraph (B), shall issue definitions for the indicators described in paragraph (2).**

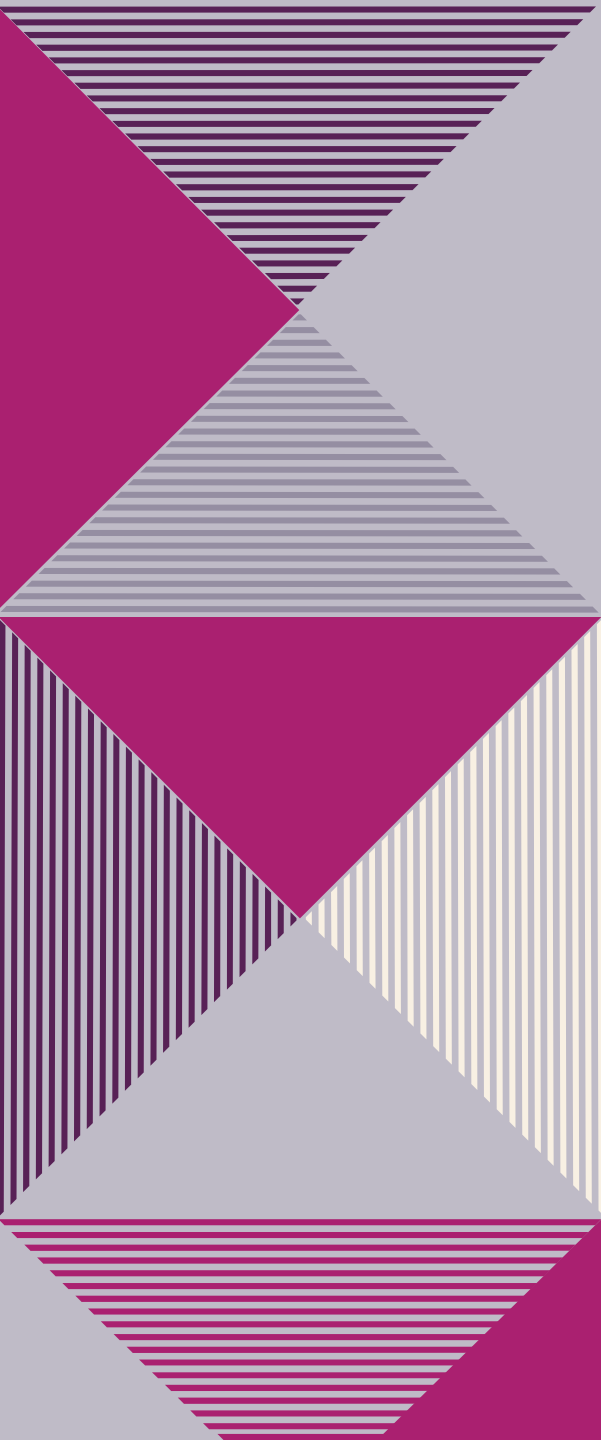
(B) Representatives

The representatives referred to in subparagraph (A) are representatives of States and political subdivisions, business and industry, employees, eligible providers of activities carried out through the core programs, educators, researchers, participants, the lead State agency officials with responsibility for the programs carried out through the core programs, individuals with expertise in serving individuals with barriers to employment, and other interested parties.

ACCEPTABLE CREDENTIALS

Program	Accepted Credentials
Nursing/Healthcare	State license, AAS degree, BSN, NCLEX passing score
Lineman	CDL permit/license, Drone Pilot license, Utility Worker Certificate
CDL	CDL permit/license
HVAC, Electrical Tech, Plumbing	AAS, Diploma, Industry Certificate, Commonwealth Apprentice Registration, Journeyman license
Welding	Industry certificate, AAS, AWS Certified Welder Card or NCCER Certification Card (KWI preferred)
Education	Industry Certificate (ECE only), AAS

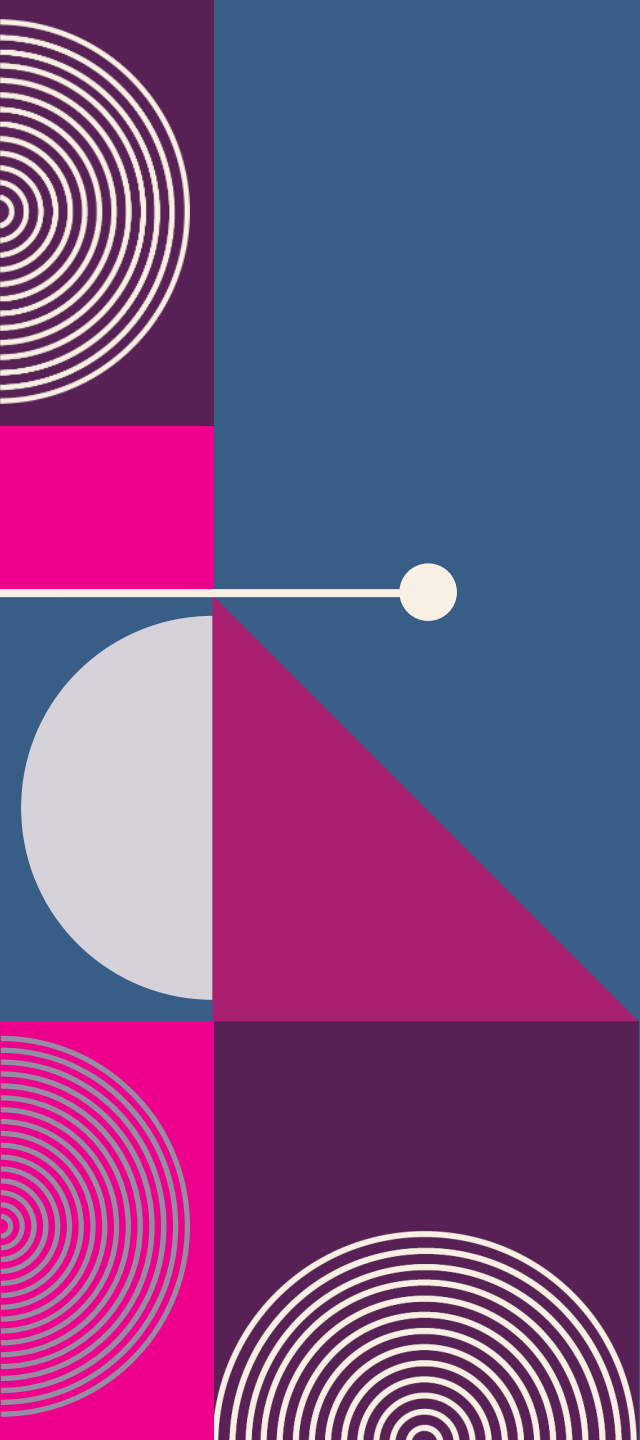
** Please note - completion certificates are not the same or considered as industry certificates in most situations*



UNACCEPTABLE CREDENTIALS

The following are examples of credentials from common programs within TENCO that will not be accepted as a positive credential outcome

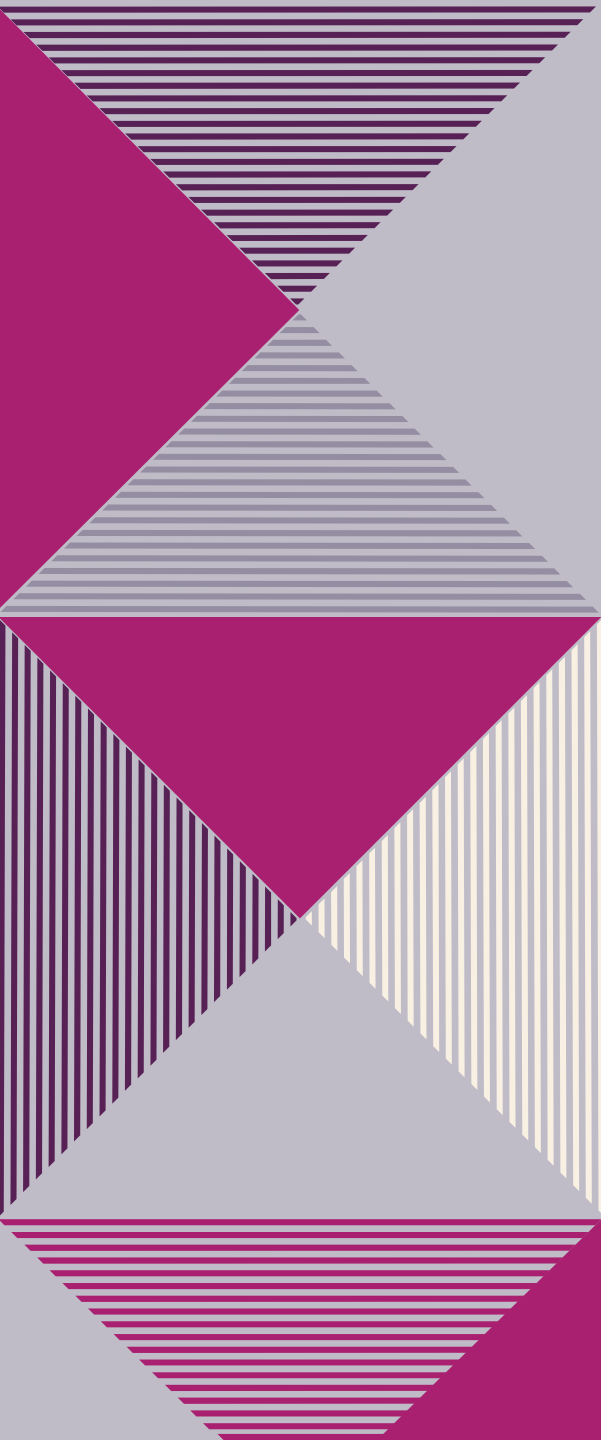
- Completion certificates
- Diplomas (This does not apply to degrees)
- General safety/health certifications (OSHA, CPR, Hazmat, etc.)
- Work readiness/soft skill certificates (ACT, Workeys, basic computer or software literacy certificates)
- Preparatory program certificates (GED, HSE, etc.)
- Pre-Apprenticeship/Apprenticeship programs that do NOT result in a recognized occupational certificate



MSG VS. CREDENTIAL

Measurable Skill Gains do not follow the same guidance as credentials. The guidance outlined in this presentation is solely for the credential performance metric.

MSGs will continue to follow the most recent guidance sent out via email and provided by the state for that performance indicator. If you do not have the most recent guidance (sent out 9/3/2025 via email), please reach out to Natasha Cloum (ncloum@btadd.com) to receive the material.



IN-SCHOOL YOUTH

This credential guidance does not apply to in-school youth participants who are enrolled in a high school or equivalent schooling. The same guidance will be followed in that high school diplomas are an acceptable credential and will count as a positive in the WIOA performance metric, provided the participant enters employment or post-secondary education during their time in the program or within one year after exit.

If an in-school youth attends a training program, we can utilize their high school diploma OR a nationally recognized credential obtained during their time in the program, if they are marked as “in school” at the time of their enrollment. In that situation, only **one** credential is required to meet the WIOA standards for a positive outcome.



SUMMARY

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this guidance, please reach out to Natasha Cloum. If you encounter a credential that is in a program not listed on the “acceptable credentials” slide, or a credential that you are unsure if it is nationally recognized, please send the credential and any related information to Natasha Cloum for guidance before entering a positive outcome.

Thank you.

