

# EMPLOYABILITY CREDENTIAL

Code **IKFC** Issued **Draft 6/18**

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Purpose: To establish the program components and criteria for a state-recognized employability credential.

The South Carolina High School Credential course of study is a career-based educational program providing opportunities for students with disabilities to acquire employability skills thereby increasing a student's ability to obtain paid work after high school. Upon completion of the course of study, students will receive a uniform, state-recognized employability credential.

The South Carolina High School Credential program of study is appropriate for students with disabilities whose individualized education program (IEP) team determines, and agrees in writing, that a traditional high school diploma would not provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Instead, the IEP team believes mastery of a career-based educational program that includes academics, independent work experience, daily living skills, and self-determination skill competencies is the most appropriate way for the student to demonstrate his or her skills and for the district to provide FAPE.

An IEP team's decision to identify the employability credential as the student's expected high school outcome will be based on data which may include, but is not limited to, longitudinal information of grades, standardized achievement assessments, informal and formal transition assessments, adaptive behavior assessments, and work readiness assessments resulting in evidence of skills necessary for independent, competitive employment. The IEP team's decision will be made only after the team considers a variety of program options that may allow the student to pursue a state high school diploma.

Students may earn the state-recognized employability credential by meeting the requirements outlined in administrative rule IKFC-R.

## Annual Notification

The district will provide an annual notification to the parent/legal guardian of each student in the program, or directly to each adult student, that the employability credential is not a state high school diploma. While a student working towards the employability credential will receive units on his/her high school transcript for general education academic and/or elective courses and occupational English, math, science, social studies, and career preparation courses, the employability credential can not be utilized to enter a four-year college/university or most two-year colleges/technical schools.

Adopted ^

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## Legal References:

- A. Federal Law:
  - 1. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975 (IDEA), 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1400.
- B. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
  - 1. Section 59-39-100 - Issuance of uniform diplomas by accredited high school; units required.

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### **C. State Board of Education Regulations:**

1. R43-235 - South Carolina Employability Credential for Students with Disabilities (pending approval by the SC General Assembly, projected effective date 5/25/2018)