



ARIZONA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION QUALITY COMMISSION

The **Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission (ACTEQC)** is the final authority on technical standards and assessments for CTE programs in Arizona. It ensures that educational programs remain industry-aligned, high-quality, and accountable.

Core Responsibilities

The Commission serves several critical functions to support the [Arizona Skills Standards Assessment System](#):

- **Standards Approval:** Reviews and endorses the technical standards developed by industry validation committees for each CTE program (e.g., Welding, Nursing, Culinary Arts).
- **Assessment Validation:** Serves as the validating authority for end-of-program **Technical Skills Assessments (TSAs)**, which students must pass to receive industry-recognized credentials.
- **Labor Market Alignment:** Collaborates with the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to review and approve the **statewide in-demand education list**, ensuring programs focus on high-skill, high-wage jobs.
- **Advocacy:** Acts as a leading advocate for the excellence and strategic direction of career and technical education statewide.

Bylaws of the Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

The Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission (ACTEQC), in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education, is a responsible authority for approving the Career and Technical Education (CTE) technical standards, technical skills assessments, and industry-recognized credentials for CTE programs.

Using their expertise, members of the commission meet regularly to confirm and approve the career and technical education standards. The standards contain the knowledge, and essential skills students must possess to complete a career and technical education program. To ensure students possess the knowledge of and can demonstrate the use of essential skills identified in the standards, the commissioners also confirm and approve the technical skills assessments and industry-recognized credentials based on the content of each program's standards. Commissioners also serve as advocates and support Career and Technical Education.

The purpose of the Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission (ACTEQC), as required by state statute, federal funding (ADE CTE Perkins Plan), and the State CTE Plan, is to provide business, industry, and CTE stakeholders with an opportunity to participate in the following activities:

(1) continue to engage Arizona business and industry employers and to work with existing community, state, and national organizations in support of high-quality, relevant CTE programs,

(2) confirm and approve CTE technical standards essential to students' education and career success (Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, Arizona State Approved Perkins V Plan; FY2024-2027),

(3) confirm and approve students' skill attainment through end-of-program assessments (A.R.S. § 15-391),

(4) confirm and approve industry-recognized credentials (Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, Arizona State Approved Perkins V Plan; FY2024-2027), and

(5) confirm and approve regional labor market data provided by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity on an annual basis (A.R.S. § 15-391).

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership, Number, Tenure, and Qualifications

Nominees shall be submitted to the State Superintendent for Public Instruction for official appointments.

Section 2. Membership Composition

Membership of the Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission shall consist of an individual representing large and small businesses and industries, and the geographic and demographic diversity of the state, with at least one of the following constituencies:

Representative of each of the career clusters

- [Advanced Manufacturing \(i.e., Engineering, Automation and Robotics\)](#)
- [Agriculture \(i.e., Ag., Water, Vet.\)](#)
- [Arts, Entertainment, & Design \(i.e., Fashion, Digital Arts, Sound, Media, Radio, Stage Craft\)](#)
- [Construction \(i.e., Architecture, Skilled trades\)](#)
- [Digital Technology \(i.e., IT, Cyber, Network., IT support, Software, Animation, Drones\)](#)
- [Education \(i.e., Early Ed., Ed Professions\)](#)
- [Energy & Natural Resources](#)
- [Financial Services \(i.e., Finance, Accounting\)](#)
- [Healthcare & Human Services \(i.e., MA, Mental and Social Health, CHW, Dental\)](#)
- [Hospitality, Events, & Tourism \(i.e., Culinary, Hospitality\)](#)

- [Management & Entrepreneurship \(i.e., BMAS, BOSA, Entrepreneurship\)](#)
- [Marketing & Sales \(i.e., Marketing\)](#)
- [Public Service & Safety \(i.e., Law and Public Safety, Fire\)](#)
- [Supply Chain & Transportation \(i.e., Air Transport., Auto, Auto repair, Logistics,\)](#)

Membership of the Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission shall also consist of the following:

1. A secondary school district
2. A Career and Technical Education District (CTED). The CTED Superintendents' Consortium nominates individuals.
3. Two (2) community college representatives [to be nominated from among the Presidents' Council or AOAC, if so, designated by the presidents. One (1) member should represent the rural population and one (1) should represent-the-urban population.]
4. A university representative (rotation is every third year by the universities recognized by the Arizona Board of Regents)
5. An educational advocacy representative (i.e., Center for the Future of Arizona, Helios, Arizona Business Education Coalition, etc.)
6. A representative of the Association of Career and Technical Education of Arizona (ACTEAZ)
7. ADE/CTE Staff to include the Director of Career and Technical Education for ADE/CTE or designee(s).

One (1) co-chair of the commission shall be the State Superintendent of Public Instruction or their designee. And one (1) co-chair shall represent business/industry.

SECTION 3. Member Selection and Vacancies

A candidate for a vacancy shall be filled with the same membership composition type as the individual leaving the commission. Members of the commission can recommend a replacement.

SECTION 4. Length of Service/Term

The term of each member is one (1) fiscal year. In May of each year, commission members will confirm their continuation to remain on the commission and their commitment to the purpose of the commission.

ARTICLE III – OPERATIONS & DUTIES

SECTION 1. Recorder

ADE/CTE staff, or their designee, will serve as the recorder of meeting minutes. Minutes shall be sent to all commission members within 30 days after said meeting. Minutes shall be reviewed and accepted by the commission at its next regular scheduled meeting.

SECTION 2. Voting

Commission members shall be designated as a “voting member” and entitled to vote on all matters subject to the commission’s approval. All other members will be designated as industry experts and will be ex officio. All voting decisions shall be determined by majority vote of the voting members present. An ex officio member may vote if the voting member is not present at the meeting.

SECTION 3. Meetings and Committees

The commission shall have a minimum of three (3) meetings per calendar year.

Time and location of the meetings (commission and ad hoc committees) shall be decided by the co-chairs in consultation with ADE/CTE Staff. Ad hoc committees may be formed throughout the year, consisting of selected members of the commission. Committee meetings may be called by the co-chairs or a majority of the commission. There shall be one annual meeting, which shall be the first meeting of a new school year.

Electronic or telephonic presence at a meeting will be recognized as physically being present.

ARTICLE IV – GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Written Notice

ADE/CTE, or their designee, in consultation with the commission co-chairs, shall issue written notice of the date, time, and location of all scheduled meetings.

SECTION 2. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year ends on the last day of June of each year and begins on the first day of July.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who approves of the Career and Technical Education standards in Arizona?

1. CTE Technical Standards Are Approved by a Quality Commission

- Arizona law and policy establish the **Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission (ACTEQC)** as the entity that **confirms and approves the technical standards** for CTE programs — that is, the detailed knowledge and skills that students must learn in each CTE program. [Arizona Department of Education+1](#)
- This Commission is made up of industry, education, and state stakeholders (business representatives, career cluster experts, etc.) and serves as the validating authority for CTE technical standards and technical skills assessments. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

The technical standards themselves are not directly adopted by the State Board of Education — instead, they are vetted and approved by the Quality Commission.

Who approves the CTE industry credentials counted on the College and Career Ready indicators?

In Arizona the State Board of Education (SBE) must approve industry credentials that are counted on the College and Career Ready Indicator (CCRI) as part of the A-F school accountability system. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

Here's how the process works:

Approval Process for CCRI Industry Credentials

- 1. Application & Review:**
 - Individuals or organizations submit applications to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE)/CTE unit to propose that an industry credential be included on the College and Career Ready Indicator (CCRI) list.
 - These applications are reviewed by ADE CTE specialists and relevant industry advisory committees. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
 - 2. Career and Technical Education Quality Commission:**
 - The industry advisory committee recommendations go to the **Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission (Quality Commission)** for further review. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
 - 3. State Board of Education (Final Approval):**
 - The Quality Commission then submits recommended credentials to the **State Board of Education**, and the SBE **must approve** those credentials before they are officially added to the CCRI industry credentials list used for A-F accountability. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
 - 4. Publication:**
 - Once the SBE approves the list, it is published on the ADE website. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
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Annual Timeline for Industry Credential Review & Approval

February 1 – 28

1. Application Window (Department of Education)

- New industry credential applications are typically **accepted from February 1st until February 28.**

– After review and feedback, revisions are due by **April 30.** [Arizona Department of Education](#)

March 1 -31

2. ADE & Industry Advisory Review (Late Winter / Early Spring)

- Starting **March 1 each year**, ADE begins accepting industry certification applications for inclusion on the CCRI list. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
 - ADE CTE specialists review these applications and forward them to relevant **industry advisory committees** for review and recommendations. [Arizona Department of Education+1](#)
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Spring

3. Quality Commission Review

- After advisory committees' act, recommendations are forwarded to the **Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission** for review and recommendation to the State Board of Education. [Arizona Department of Education](#)
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Summer

4. State Board Submission & Approval (Typically Following Commission Action)

- The Quality Commission submits recommended credentials to the **State Board of Education.**
- While exact SBE meeting dates vary year-to-year, this submission and approval step follows each year's review cycle so that the updated list can be used in the *next school year's* accountability reporting. [Arizona Department of Education](#)

Who approves of the In-demand CTE programs?

The statutory review and approval process for the in-demand list centers on:

- **Office of Economic Opportunity** (creates draft list),
- **Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission** (reviews and approves final list). [Arizona Legislature](#)

State-Level Recognition of In-Demand CTE Programs

1. In-Demand Lists Are Created Statutorily

Arizona law directs the **Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)**, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), to annually compile an **in-demand education list** of CTE programs that lead to *high-demand, median-to-high-wage* career paths. That list is based on labor market information and industry input. [Justia Law](#)

In recent legislative drafts (e.g., S.B. 1456), this process is updated so that:

- OEO and ADE develop a **draft statewide in-demand education list**.
- The **Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission** reviews and *approves* the final statewide in-demand list. [Arizona Legislature](#)

Once approved by the Quality Commission, this list is used for things like **funding eligibility** for Career and Technical Education Districts (CTEDs). [Arizona Legislature](#)