
Career Readiness Education Development Innovation Transferability ACT

Proponent Testimony on the CREDIT ACT

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Thank you, Madam Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is John Idoux, and I serve as ACT's Government Relations Director for Kansas. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to provide an overview of the CREDIT Act and explain how it is designed to elevate career readiness to the same level of importance as college readiness.

ACT Introduction

ACT is best known for helping students prepare for college, but our mission is broader: helping all students succeed after high school. Through ACT WorkKeys, we partner with states like Kansas to align education with real workforce needs, ensuring that students who pursue a career pathway graduate with skills that employers recognize and trust.

That commitment to workforce readiness is why ACT strongly supports the CREDIT Act and is honored to participate in today's informational hearing.

CREDIT Act Purpose

The CREDIT Act is designed to strengthen the connection between education and workforce readiness. By aligning learning outcomes with employment needs, the proposal supports assessments that measure readiness for both postsecondary education and in-demand careers. This approach ensures that students and job-seekers are prepared to meet the evolving needs of states, communities, and employers.

CREDIT Act Overview

The CREDIT Act is patterned after a 2023 Arkansas law and includes two key components: 1) access to workforce development assessments and 2) college credit for prior learning. I expand on both components below.

- *Access to Workforce Development Assessment:* The CREDIT Act elevates career readiness to the same level of importance as college readiness, ensuring both pathways receive equal recognition in state education policy. The bill requires public high schools to offer a workforce assessment to students in grades 10-12.

Importantly, this component of the CREDIT Act is already implemented in Kansas. The state currently partners with ACT to provide workforce development assessments. Today, every public high school student in Kansas has access to the ACT WorkKeys assessment, as well as WorkKeys curriculum to support score improvement on subsequent retakes.

- *College Credit for Prior Learning:* In April 2025, the American Council on Education (ACE) recommended that institutions award up to nine lower-division credit hours to individuals earning a Silver, Gold, or Platinum NCRC. The CREDIT Act directs public institutions of higher education to adopt and implement ACE guidelines so that credentials earned through the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) program are recognized as transcribable credits toward postsecondary technical degree completion.

Specifically, ACE recommends that institutions in the lower-division baccalaureate or associate degree category award up to 9 semester hours of credit, depending on the level of NCRC earned:

	Lower Divisional Degree Category			
	Quantitative Reasoning	Information Literacy	Professional Writing	Total Semester Hours
Platinum	3 credits	3 credits	3 credits	9 credits
Gold	2 credits	2 credits	2 credits	6 credits
Silver	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	3 credits

Conclusion

In short, the CREDIT Act ensures that students pursuing career and technical education have access to the same readiness and assessment resources as their college-bound peers.

Moreover, students who earn the ACT WorkKeys NCRC can translate that achievement into college-equivalent credit – much like Advanced Placement (AP) students receive credit toward a college degree.

Ultimately, this is about both college readiness and career readiness, because it should never be an either-or choice. The CREDIT Act makes that commitment clear by ensuring state assessment policies value both pathways equally and that all Kansas students have an opportunity to efficiently achieve success after high school, regardless of the pathway chosen.

Thank you Madam Chair and members of the Committee, and I urge your support and advancement of this bill. I would also welcome any questions you may have at the appropriate time, or feel free to reach out to me at john.idoux@act.org or 319.337.1541.