

Comparison of National Employability Skills Credentials

SKILLS CREDENTIALS				
Specific Information	SkillsUSA Workforce Ready Employability Assessment	National Work Readiness Credential (NWRC)	National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) - WorkKeys (ACT)	Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) - Workforce Skills Certificate System (WSCS)
Skills Assessed (including but not limited to)	Focuses primarily on industry- specific abilities and personal qualities. Includes assessment of general employability skills.	General employability skills including nine communication, interpersonal, problem-solving and learning skills.	General employability skills such as reading for information, applied mathematics, listening for understanding, applied technology and soft skills. Includes 4 performance levels (bronze, silver, gold and platinum).	CASAS measures basic academic skills, critical thinking and problem solving. Includes continuum of skill levels, including skill descriptors for individuals with intellectual disabilities. WSCS, a supplemental credential to CASAS, assesses general employability skills.
Career Specific	Yes	No	No	No
Curriculum/Instructional Materials	Yes. Blueprint of competencies for each career area.	Yes. Three book series designed to model authentic, work-related experiences and activities.	Yes. Interactive learning tool for career readiness skills.	No single curriculum. Provides an extensive data base of instructional training materials including low level literacy curriculum modules and lesson plans in alternative formats.
Test Administration	Testing occurs online and can be administered at school.	Testing is internet based and delivered securely in wide range of authorized sites.	Individuals can be certified as administrators and schools can become certified test sites.	Testing is available online and in paper and pencil formats. Schools can administer assessments.
Fee for Test/Materials	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reading/Math Levels	Reading - 8 th grade Math - 6 th through 8 th grades (depending on career assessment).	Reading – 7 th - 8 th grade Math - 7 th - 8 th grade	Varies by performance level. Reading – 8 th grade through high school (HS) Math - 5 th grade through HS	Varies by performance level. Includes preliteracy and adult low level literacy skills. Reading and math level is comparable to GED® test for CASAS certification.
States/districts using Credential	Approximately 44 states. Some districts in NYS use these assessments through the Career and Technical Education program approval process.	Credential was developed in partnership with five states (Florida, New Jersey, NY, Rhode Island, and Washington), the District of Columbia and JA Worldwide. NYS Department of Labor endorses credential.	Five states have funded WorkKeys and 12 have funded the EXPLORE program for middle school students. Used by Center for Workforce Education and Development at Syracuse University and some BOCES adult education programs.	CASAS is affiliated with National External Diploma Program (NEDP) which provides unique ways for adults to earn HS diploma based on life experiences. Eleven states, including NY use NEDP. NEDP is used by 18 BOCES adult education programs. California is primary user of WSCS.
For additional information	http://www.workforcereadysystem.org	http://www.workreadiness.com	http://www.act.org/certificate	https://www.casas.org