

MEETING THE NEED FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CREDENTIALS OF VALUE IN OHIO

Between 2018 and 2023, Ohio high school students demonstrated remarkable achievement by earning **411,337 industry credentials** across diverse career pathways, according to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW). Within this impressive total, **169,354 credentials** (41%) were concentrated in Information Technology — signaling strong student interest in tech careers. Yet beneath these encouraging numbers lies a more nuanced reality that deserves closer examination.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CREDENTIALS



81% (137,887)

were categorized as **"Non-IT"** — **credentials** that apply across multiple career fields, such as CPR and OSHA certifications.

11% (17,810)

were **Digital Literacy credentials**, equipping students with basic tech skills using tools like Microsoft Office.

5% (8,722)

fell under the **Creative category**, representing technology used in the arts (such as Adobe Photoshop).

Only 3% (4,935)

were tied directly to **Computer Science/IT** and included industry-recognized credentials like CompTIA certifications.

CREDENTIALS OF VALUE

Credentials also varied by point value, reflecting their complexity and industry weight:

POINT VALUE	*1	2	3	4	**6	12
# OF CREDENTIALS EARNED	127,420	1,563	21,556	9,956	6,035	2,838
% OF IT TRACK	75%	1%	13%	5%	4%	2%

Higher-point credentials or "credentials of value", which often correlate to deeper technical expertise, made up only a small fraction of the total.

***1 point credential examples:** CPR, OSHA 10 hour

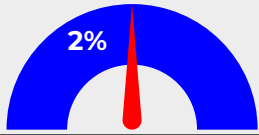
**** 6 point credential examples:** COMPTIA IT Fundamentals, COMPTIA Tech+

COUNTY-LEVEL INSIGHTS

In regions where TECH CORPS operates, the story shifts slightly

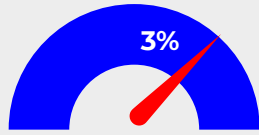
Cuyahoga County

awarded **9,921** credentials, with **59%** falling under the IT track but only **2% in Computer Science/IT.**



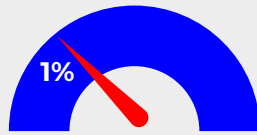
Franklin County

led the pack with **15,073** credentials – **76%** IT track but just **3% Computer Science/IT.**



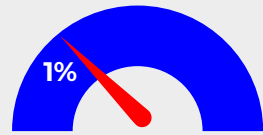
Lorain County

awarded **1,898** credentials – **91%** IT track with only **1% Computer Science/IT.**



Perry County

awarded **444** credentials, with **89%** on the IT track but only **1% Computer Science/IT.**



The Call to Action

This data highlights a critical need: while many students earn IT-related credentials, the overwhelming majority are in non-technical fields. Actual **Computer Science/IT Credentials of Value** – directly tied to technology careers – remain a small slice of the pie.



There's an urgent need to **increase access to Information Technology Credentials of Value.**



Programs like **TECH CORPS** play a vital role by offering industry-recognized credentials like **CompTIA IT Fundamentals (6 points), Tech+ (6 points), and CIW Site Development Associate (4 points)**

Join us in expanding access to industry-recognized technology credentials. Together, we can equip Ohio's students with competitive skills that drive their success and power our state's economic growth.



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