



Why Chapter 74 Matters

"Vocational-technical education" is an organized set of programs offering sequential courses designed to educate and prepare students for both employment and continuing academic and occupational preparation. Such programs shall integrate academic and vocational education and shall include competency based applied learning which contributes to an individual's academic knowledge, higher order reasoning, and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills and the occupational-specific skills necessary for economic independence as a productive and contributing member of society.

Chapter 74 Education is a vocational technical education program approved by the Massachusetts Department of Education in the areas of agriculture, allied health, service, technology, automotive, construction, marketing, industrial manufacturing, and aviation. A Chapter 74 approved program guarantees each student will receive a minimum of 900 hours of instruction in the chosen trade area. Many vocational Chapter 74 programs are able to offer a much higher number of hours. At SVAHS our students receive over 1900 hours in their trade area!

The full text of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 74 can be found here:

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter74/Section1>



What are IRC's?

- An industry recognized credential is a verification of an individual's competence issued by a third party that is valued in the specific industry labor market that comes in the form of certificates or licenses.
- IRC's are certifications or industry related credentials that our students have the opportunity to earn while attending Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School.
- IRC's are approved by our advisory boards, recognized in the industry, and relevant to employment.

What do credentials do for our students?

- Demonstrates advanced skill in a particular area
- Gives students an advantage during the hiring process
- Demonstrates the students' dedication to the industry
- Increases earning potential
- Increases value to the employer
- Saves the student money

What do credentials do for employers?

- Saves the employer time and money on training
- Provides the employer with validation of student proficiency that is aligned with workforce needs
- Certified students are more aware of industry expectations
- Certified students are more effective on the job.