



# Sample Executive Order to Support Credential Transparency

## Overview

Building a comprehensive and connected data infrastructure of credential data is critical to ensuring everyone is empowered with the resources they need to make informed decisions about education and training opportunities. State leaders have a unique opportunity to lead the way, and executive-level action can be leveraged to kickstart these efforts.

Below is a sample template that can be used to enact policy solutions that support credential transparency.

## Sample Language

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. ##

WHEREAS, *STATE* enjoys diverse, dynamic, and growing economy, in which employers are constantly innovating in order to remain competitive and productive; and

WHEREAS, *employment and jobs stats*; and

WHEREAS, in *month/year*, *State's* unemployment rate was *###* percent; and

WHEREAS, *State's* workers need to remain highly educated and trained in order to have the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities--collectively referred to as competencies--to gain and retain employment, advance, and have family-sustaining wages now and into the future; and

WHEREAS, *State's* employers typically use credentials to signal the competencies necessary for jobs, and workers obtain and reveal credentials to demonstrate the competencies they possess; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 1,000,000 unique credentials in the United States, and well over *###* credentials of all types and levels offered by institutions based in *State*, including but not limited to diplomas, badges, certificates, certifications, licenses, apprenticeships, associate's degrees, bachelor's degrees, masters degrees, professional and doctoral degrees; and

WHEREAS, the number and diversity of credentials will continue to grow in *State* as a result of continued transformations in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, searchable and comparable data about the characteristics, content, connections, pathways, and outcomes of all credentials in *State* is a public good, and should be readily accessible, usable, understandable, and actionable for everyone, including students, workers, veterans, parents, counselors, employers, educators, policymakers; and

WHEREAS, it is not currently possible to search and compare different types and levels of credentials in easily accessible, web-enabled tools; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to have access to better, consistent, and transparent data about credentials and their outcomes in *State* to more accurately identify credentials of value for eligibility and use in the K-12, post-secondary, adult and continuing education, veterans services, and workforce development systems; and

WHEREAS, the State of *State* has a significant and substantial role in delivering, issuing, funding, authorizing, overseeing, or governing of most if not all educational and occupational credentials within the state, and has an obligation to ensure that everyone in the state has the ability to make the most informed decisions about such credentials;

NOW, THEREFORE, I *NAME*, Governor of the State of *State*, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. That all educational and occupational credentials and their related competencies delivered, issued, funded, authorized, overseen, or governed by *State* shall be made publicly available in searchable and comparable formats using a common schema aligned with national standards and trends.
2. Such data shall be described utilizing the Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) and the Credential Transparency Description Language-Achievement Standards Network (CTDL-ASN) as Linked Open Data, in machine readable formats, kept current, and encoded in search engine optimized formats on the credential providers' websites such that the data are easily available to the public.
3. The Departments of ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~, and any other *State* state agencies with responsibilities for delivering, issuing, funding, authorizing, overseeing, or governing educational or occupational credentials shall jointly determine and maintain state-determined minimum data standards for the publishing of such data, including but limited to competencies (knowledge, skills, and abilities), costs, connections, pathways, process and outcomes-based quality results, assessments, and linkages to occupational and job skills.
4. Said agencies shall take all necessary actions to ensure that all such credentials and competencies are published by the end of *year*.
5. Said agencies shall lead efforts to identify tools, services, resources and platforms that are designed to assist students, learners, parents, counselors, workers, employers, educators, researchers, policymakers and others, and ensure the integration and use of these linked open data about credentials to improve search, discovery, comparison, evaluation, navigation, guidance, eligibility, equity, access, and other goals of the state.
6. In order to achieve this goal, the Commissioner of the Department of ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~, with the assistance of the heads of other relevant state agencies, shall engage key stakeholders and solicit input from the public.
7. Should any part of this Order be declared to be invalid or unenforceable, or should the enforcement of or compliance with any part of this Order be suspended, restrained or barred by the final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Order shall remain in full force and effect.
8. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

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