**Use this document to learn about stackable credits.**

***What are Stackable Credits?***

Stackable credits are sequences of credentials that students accumulate over time in order to demonstrate qualifications that will help them advance in their careers. Such credits and credentials are often developed based on technology and customer service needs of industries such as health care, information technology, and hospitality.

***Examples of Stackable Credits/Credentials***

An example of “vertical” stackable credits includes the following sequencing:

* Obtaining a high school diploma or GED; the high school diploma can include dual enrollment credits
* Earning an associate degree to stack onto the diploma or GED
* Entering a 4-year institution to build on the stackable credits that count toward a bachelor program

“Horizontal” examples might include earning credentials, such as certificates in healthcare or information technology fields. For instance, in information technology, one might earn a CompTIA certificate, Cisco Certified Network Associate certificate, and a Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert certificate in order to broaden skill sets and to expand career opportunities.

***Benefits of Stackable Credits***

Creating alternative career pathways that “stack” or align sequenced learning with on-the-job training may help you throughout your career. Such stackable credentials can offer you flexibility in entering and exiting professional and educational experiences, in career mobility, and with incentives for more learning opportunities.

***Next Steps:*** *Consult with your guidance counselor or advisor to explore ways you can use stackable credits in your academic and career preparation.*