



**BERKSHIRE  
HIGH SCHOOL**

The  
University  
of Akron

## INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS THAT LEAD TO COLLEGE CREDIT

At Berkshire Local Schools, we believe students should graduate with **real skills, real credentials, and real opportunities**.

Through our workforce development programs, students have the opportunity to earn **industry-recognized credentials (IRCs)**—certifications valued by employers and aligned to high-demand careers in areas such as manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, agribusiness, and more.

A key component of Berkshire's model is the intentional integration of these credentials across multiple pathways. Students can earn **state- and nationally recognized certifications**—including universal, stackable, and pathway-specific credentials—that align with Ohio graduation requirements, Ohio's Top Jobs, and employer expectations. These credentials validate real-world skills in areas such as safety, leadership, automation, and technical fields. By embedding credentials into coursework, career exploration, and work-based learning experiences, Berkshire ensures students graduate with **tangible proof of readiness** for college, careers, apprenticeships, and the workforce.



## THE BIG PICTURE

Your child isn't just earning credits—they are building a **clear, connected pathway from high school to college and into a career.**

At Berkshire, we are committed to ensuring every student graduates **ready, confident, and already ahead.**

## FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE—SEAMLESSLY

What makes Berkshire unique is how these credentials **connect directly to college opportunities.** Through a formal partnership with The University of Akron, students can turn their credentials and coursework into college credit toward an [Associate of Technical Studies degree.](#) This is not a College Credit Plus (CCP) program—instead, students earn credentials in high school that convert to college credit after graduation.

Students who earn qualifying credentials may receive **up to 30 college credit hours**, applied as technical electives. If a Berkshire graduate attends The University of Akron, they can transfer their earned credentials directly into this degree program—**at no cost to students, families, or the district**—providing a meaningful head start on their college journey.

## WHY THIS MATTERS FOR FAMILIES

This means your child can:

- **Earn college credit and get ahead before graduation**
- **Save time and reduce college costs**
- **Gain real, job-ready skills valued by employers**
- **Transition confidently into college, careers, or apprenticeships**

## THE BERKSHIRE ADVANTAGE

At Berkshire, learning is intentional and connected:

- Credentials are **embedded into coursework and hands-on experiences**
- Students engage in **real-world, work-based learning**
- Pathways are designed to lead directly to **college degrees and careers**

If you are interested in learning more about the [Associate of Technical Studies degree at the University of Akron](#) and how to earn college credit through your Industry-Recognized Credentials, please reach out to your high school counselors:

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