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News From the Florida Department of Education

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### **Florida's New Career Readiness Program Gains Momentum**

The Florida Ready to Work Program is poised to become one of the largest programs of its kind in the country. Ready To Work is a credential program that gives potential employees useful skills such as reading for information, applied mathematics and locating information. The credential signifies to employers that the individual is fully skilled and qualified for the demands of a work environment. Fully operational for only 18 months, more than 20,000 credentials have been earned through this unique career readiness program. To date, nearly 102,000 assessments have been delivered and 120,000 students and jobseekers have enrolled in the program.

Public high schools have generated 59 percent of all credentials followed by regional workforce boards (17 percent) and public technical centers (13 percent). The program has been implemented in partnership with more than 600 high schools, regional workforce boards, technical centers, community colleges, juvenile justice program, corrections facilities and community-based organizations statewide.

The program is now recognized by more than 400 employer partners statewide including Shands Jacksonville, Tervis Tumbler, and Consolidated Credit Counseling. Beginning this school year, students who earn the Florida Ready to Work credential will receive a special designation on their standard high school diploma. For more information on the program, visit [www.floridareadytowork.com](http://www.floridareadytowork.com) or call 1-877-444-4505.