Based on rigorous, research-based standards and best practices, Cognia Accreditation and Certification help you meet high standards and publicly display your dedication to excellence and the continuous improvement process. Trained evaluators generate responsive feedback suggesting how to build on your institution’s strengths and address areas of need.

Globally recognized certification

Cognia offers globally recognized certification programs that guide leaders with a specific framework and improvement process, culminating in recognition for institutions that demonstrate a strong and effective focus in the following areas:

- STEM Education (K–12)
- Early Learning STEM Education
- Competency-Based Education

Accreditation and continuous improvement

The Cognia Performance Standards articulate a common set of learning outcomes and expectations that set learners on a path toward expanded opportunities.

Accreditation is a prerequisite for pursuing any Cognia certifications. Certification Engagement Reviews are conducted in conjunction with the Accreditation Engagement Review.

HALLMARKS OF A QUALITY STEM PROGRAM:

- Thoroughly embedded in and supported by the institution
- Defined by clear expectations for STEM learning outcomes
- Composed of integrated activities within and beyond the school day
- Focused on performance-based demonstrations of learning

HALLMARKS OF A QUALITY CBE PROGRAM:

- Thoroughly embedded in and supported by the institution
- Defined by clear concise expectations for learning
- Based on achievement of outcomes, not seat time
- Focused on using assessment as a learning opportunity
STEM Certification

Cognia’s STEM Certification recognizes schools and systems that demonstrate a strong and effective STEM focus through a set of evaluative criteria that serve as a roadmap for implementing high-quality STEM practices and processes.

**K-12 SCHOOLS AND SYSTEMS, POSTSECONDARY, AND PROVIDERS**

Cognia’s STEM Certification Standards provide the foundational elements of a high-quality STEM education model within a school or system that result in learner engagement within the STEM disciplines and inquiry approaches aligned to STEM learning outcomes.

**EARLY LEARNING**

Cognia’s Early Learning STEM Certification Standards provide the foundational elements of a high-quality Early Learning STEM education model within a school or system that promote real-world inquiry and problem solving across STEM disciplines by your youngest learners.

Competency-Based Education (CBE) Certification

Cognia’s Competency Based Education (CBE) Certification provides the framework for designing and successfully implementing competency-based education in a school or school system. Working in collaboration with the Aurora Institute’s CompetencyWorks initiative, the world’s leading research organization for competency-based education, Cognia’s CBE Certification is designed to measure mastery of learning, while empowering and preparing learners for their future college and career opportunities.

“Having a STEM program that has been recognized by Cognia is something that we felt would be a value to our parents.”

**Kate Latham** Student and Faculty Achievement Coach, Primrose School of Burlington, Massachusetts and LEGO Education Master Educator Member since 2016

Connect with Cognia

For more information about certification go to [https://www.cognia.org/services/accreditation-certification/](https://www.cognia.org/services/accreditation-certification/).