



CASE STUDY

Carson High School uses YouScience® Industry Certifications to turn student learning into workforce opportunity

Carson High School uses YouScience® Industry Certifications to meet end-of-program assessment requirements, support instruction, and help students prove their skills to employers.





Organization at a glance:



Location:
Carson City, Nevada



Grades targeted:
9–12



Solution:
YouScience Industry
Certifications



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Carson High School

CHALLENGE

Carson High School needed valid assessments that supported students and teachers

Two years ago, the Nevada Department of Education informed districts that it would no longer cover the cost of end-of-program exams. Districts could continue using the existing CTECS assessments or move to an industry-recognized credential model, as long as the credentials appeared on Nevada's approved list.

For Carson High School, the existing assessment options did not meet their full needs. Some available credentials did not align closely enough to Nevada standards. Others were too expensive to offer at scale. The previous CTECS assessment model also created frustration for students and teachers. Students had no pre-assessment data, no meaningful way to preview the style of the assessment, and no clear understanding of which standards mattered most.

“Students consistently said they were frustrated by the CTECS exam. They felt like they were going in prepared, but because they had no pre-assessment data and could not even see what the questions looked like, they often felt defeated before they even started.”

—Candi Robles, Carson High School

Teachers also needed stronger tools. Carson High School values the real-world experience that business and industry teachers bring to the classroom, but many teachers needed a more consistent way to assess student progress, identify gaps, and provide targeted support.

The school needed an assessment solution that could meet state expectations, support teachers, and help students build confidence before they reached the final assessment.

Final results at a glance



Used YouScience® Industry Certifications across 13 of 15 programs of study



Supported Nevada end-of-program assessment and industry-recognized credential requirements



Used pre-assessments to identify gaps, guide remediation, and improve student preparation



Helped medical assisting students prepare for CCMA certification and workforce opportunities



Built stronger employer recognition through Carson Tahoe Hospital and local Chamber of Commerce conversations



Helped students translate credentials into part-time employment, clinical experience, and postsecondary success



Increased confidence among students who had previously struggled with end-of-program assessments



Created a stronger connection between verified learning and workforce readiness

SOLUTION

Carson High School used YouScience® Industry Certifications to align assessment, instruction, and credentials

Carson High School partnered with YouScience to bring Industry Certifications onto Nevada's approved industry-recognized credential list. That work helped create a stronger pathway not only for Carson High School students, but for students across the state.

Today, Carson High School uses YouScience® Industry Certifications as both an end-of-program assessment option and a Nevada-recognized credential, using both individual certifications and stackable Capstone Certifications to recognize student learning across programs of study. In the 2024–25 school year, 13 of the school's 15 programs of study used YouScience as the end-of-program exam.

The school also uses YouScience pre-assessments as an instructional tool. Teachers review assessment data in professional learning communities to answer key questions: What do students need to know and be able to do? Are they learning it? What support do they need next? That process helps teachers tailor remediation, adjust instruction, and support students before the final assessment.

In early childhood education, Carson High School used the Early Childhood Education 1, 2, and 3 assessments to support a student population that included students with IEPs, economically disadvantaged students, and English language learners. Students used the pre-assessments to identify gaps, practice with time limits, and become more comfortable with assessment vocabulary.

In medical assisting, advanced health science students used the Medical Assistant Clinical and Lab Procedures certification as a pre-assessment to benchmark their knowledge before entering a rigorous certification course. Many students entered the course confident in their foundation, but the pre-assessment helped them see what they still needed to learn.

Students had already passed OSHA 10, Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers, and Stop the Bleed. The YouScience assessment helped them measure readiness before taking the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant exam through the National Healthcareer Association.

The result was a more intentional preparation process, stronger alignment between classroom learning and certification expectations, and a clearer connection between student mastery and workforce readiness.



Help students turn learning into opportunity

YouScience® Industry Certifications help schools validate student skills, support standards-aligned instruction, and connect CTE learning to real workforce outcomes.

Schedule a demo to see how YouScience can help your students earn credentials that prove what they know and open doors to what comes next.



IMPACT

Students gained confidence, credentials, and a competitive edge

The impact of YouScience® Industry Certifications at Carson High School reaches across classrooms, programs, and workforce partnerships.

Students use pre-assessment data to better understand what they know, what they need to improve, and how to prepare. Teachers use standards-aligned data to support instruction. Employers gain a clearer way to understand what students have learned and mastered.

In medical assisting, that connection has become especially powerful. Carson Tahoe Hospital now recognizes students who earn both the YouScience Industry Certification and the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant certification. After this year's assessment, hospital HR and clinical staff came to the school with job applications for students, giving them a direct pathway from classroom learning to employment.

For students, the credential has created real momentum. One former student, Anna, completed the medical CTE pathway, earned her YouScience Medical Assistant certification, and received a full-ride academic scholarship to USC. While attending school in Los Angeles, she works part-time as a medical assistant, supported in part by the certification she earned in high school.

Another student, Maria, completed three health science programs of study, earned a full-ride scholarship to Stanford, and plans to continue working part-time as a medical assistant to build clinical experience on her path toward medical school.

Those stories show the long-term value of helping students earn credentials before they leave high school. But Carson High School also recognizes that the credential itself is not the final outcome.

The real goal is helping students understand and explain what their credential represents.

During a local workforce conversation with Chamber of Commerce employers, Carson High School shared the YouScience credentials students would earn and asked how employers would value them. Employers said they appreciated that students would come to them with verified learning and a measure of mastery. They also emphasized that students need to explain the value of the credential and connect it to the skills they would use on the job.

For Carson High School, that insight became a next step in the work. Educators and career coaches are helping students move beyond earning a credential to articulating what they know, what they can do, and how those skills apply in employment.