

Definition: "1" refers to Vocational Education Diploma. "X" stands for several different Vocational Skill Certificates. (Ministry of Education, 2019)

Aim: Introduce the "1+X" certificate policy as a transformative approach to vocational higher education in China and evaluate the development, effectiveness and countermeasures of the policy.

Development and current situation

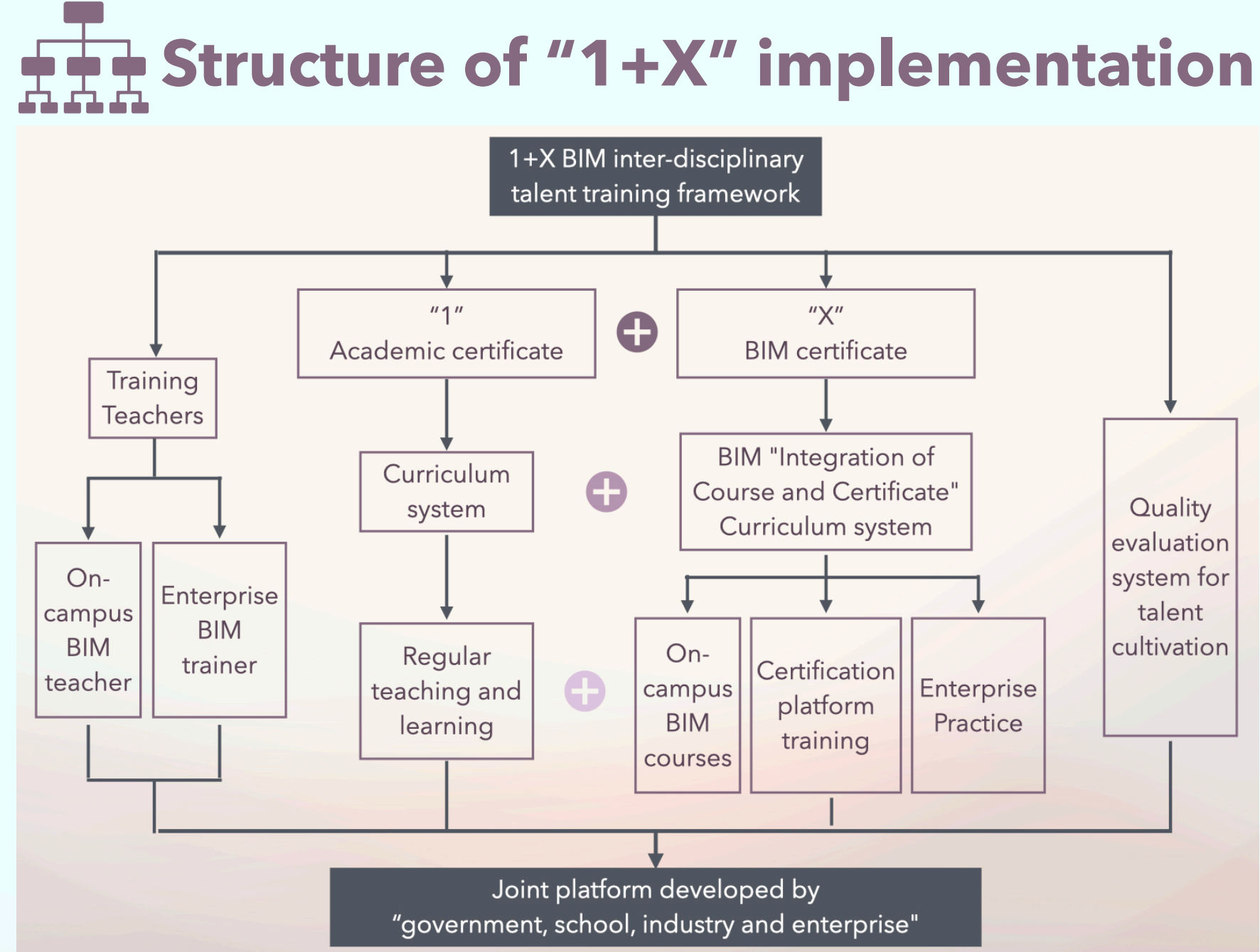
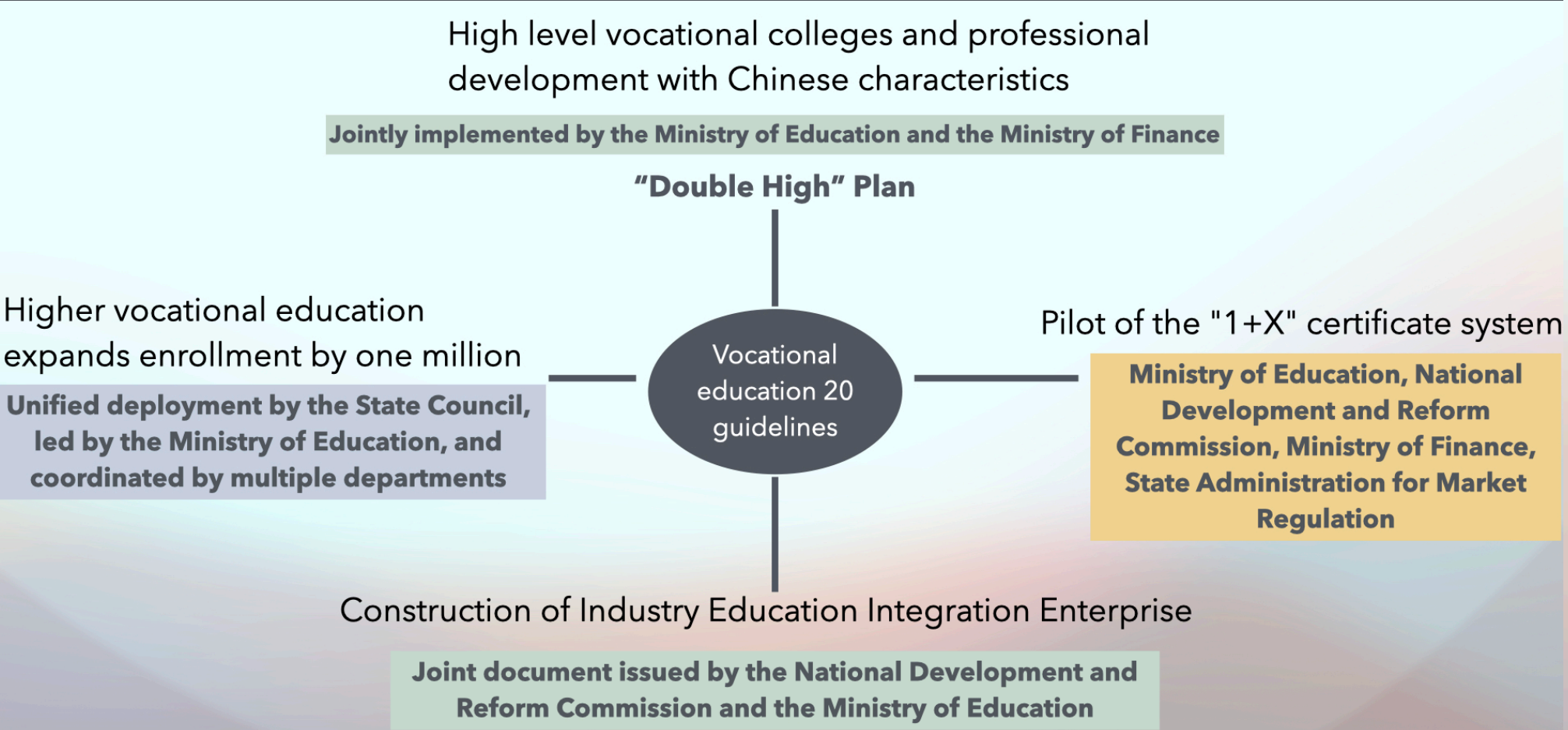
Implementation Strategy:

- **Pilot Programs:** Initial implementation in selected institutions and sectors.
- **Partnerships:** Developing industry-academic alliances to ensure curriculum relevance.
- **Scaling Up:** Expanding programs based on pilot successes. (Chen, 2023)

Key Features:

- Integration of academic and practical skill development. (Wei and Zheng, 2023)
- Collaboration between educational institutions and industries.
- Curricular innovation through active and experiential learning approaches.

Background

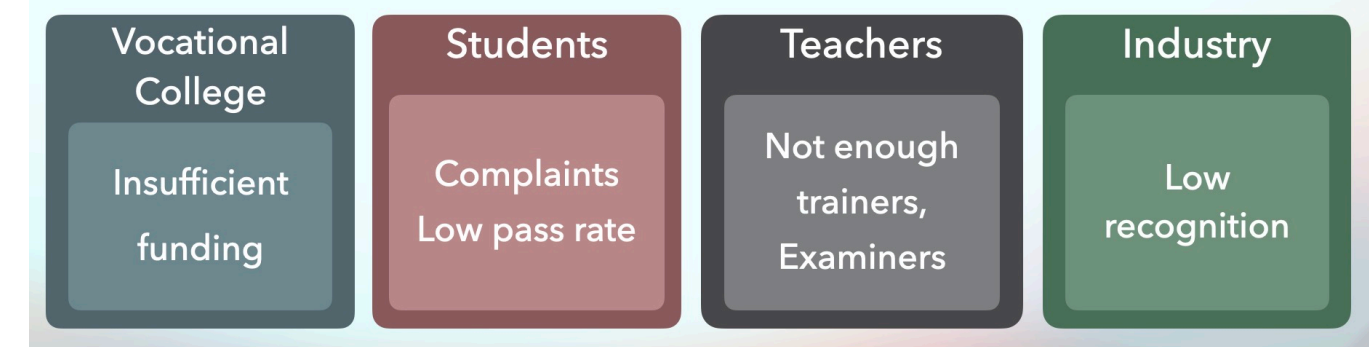


Challenges and considerations

- Ensuring quality and consistency across different institutions.
- Balancing academic rigor with practical training.
- Sustaining industry partnerships and adapting to changing needs.
- Improving students satisfaction on training and assessment.
- Balancing vocational teachers' regular teaching schedule and certificate training time table.
- Supporting different majors in vocational colleges at the same time.
- Enhancing social recognition of the certificates.

E.g. Students regard the "1+X" Certificate as a positive impact on future path, considering future career and after-graduation planning. They are not satisfied with the "1+X" System because of the assessments though. Some students even made suggestions to help develop the "1+X" assessments to make them more thorough. (Jiang, Lin and Chen, 2024)

Limitations of "1+X" Certificate Policy



Consequences and benefits

- **Enhanced Employability:** Graduates with both theoretical understanding and practical skills aligned with job market needs.
- **Industry Alignment:** Responsive curricula that meet evolving technological and economic demands. (Huang, 2021)
- **Continuing Education:** Supporting lifelong learning through stackable certificates.
- **Economic Impact:** Skilled workforce contributing to national development strategies like "Made in China 2025."

References:

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- Ministry of Education (2019) 'Pilot Plan for Implementing the "Academic Certificate+Several Vocational Skill Level Certificates" System in Colleges and Universities'.
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Conclusion

The "1+X" certificate policy represents a strategic reform to bridge educational outcomes with industry requirements, fostering a skilled and adaptable workforce for China's future economic landscape. However, there are still some limitations during the implementation of the policy which could be improved in the future.

Future Directions:

- Exploring expansion into new technologies and industries.
- Continuous evaluation and adaptation of curriculum and assessment standards.
- Strengthening policy support and resource allocation for vocational education.