

# Certification Regulations

Effective September 24, 2020



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# Objectives

- Provide an overview of newly approved certification regulations
- Outline effective dates for these regulations
- Share a communication plan to ensure educators are aware of changes

# New Certification Regulations Approved

On August 18, 2020, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education voted to approve updated educator certification regulations.

- Guiding principles for the new regulations include:
  - Build upon World Class Talent initiatives
  - Open additional pathways into the profession
  - Remove dependency requirements and expand grade spans of certificates, allowing for greater flexibility to become certified in RI
- Regulations are responsive to:
  - Stakeholder meetings, public hearings, and feedback from the field
  - Research of regulations from other states

# Summary of Approved Certification Regulations

- Inter-State Flexibility Agreement
- Special Education Certificate(s)
- All Grades Special Education Deaf and Hard of Hearing Certificates
- ESL PK-12 Certificate
- Fast-Track Principal Full Certificate
- Fast-Track Principal Preliminary Expert Residency Certificate

# Expansion of Inter-State Flexibility Agreement

- Applicants who hold full certification(s) in the states listed are eligible for RI certification(s)

Connecticut	Maryland	North Carolina
Delaware	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
District of Columbia	New Hampshire	South Carolina
Florida	New Jersey	Vermont
Georgia	New York	Virginia
Maine		

- Out of state candidates from all other states must demonstrate meeting RI testing requirements in the applicable certificate area(s) OR provide evidence of 3 years of effective teaching experience



(1.7 Sec C)

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# Fast-Track Principal Certificates

Comparison (Differences in BOLD)	Fast-Track Principal Preliminary Expert Residency	Fast-Track Principal: Full Certificate
Experience	Minimum of ten (10) years of experience as a teacher or support professional	Minimum of ten (10) years of experience as a teacher or support professional
Evaluation Ratings	Highly Effective or Effective	Highly Effective or Effective
Degree	Holds a Master's degree or higher	Holds a Master's degree or higher
<b>Internship</b>	N/A	Completion of a year-long, minimum of three hundred (300) hours, internship where currently employed.
<b>Leadership</b>	Consistent leadership within the LEA	Consistent leadership within the LEA AND has led a district or school-wide initiative
Coursework	School finance, school law, and instructional leadership/program evaluation inclusive of data analysis	School finance, school law, and instructional leadership/program evaluation inclusive of data analysis
<b>Renewal</b>	Employer recommendation based on performance and progress	During the first renewal cycle, individuals must complete a RIDE-approved leadership development program.

(1.8.12 Sec A) and (1.10.1 Sec B)



# Special Education Certificates

- *Specialized instruction without the requirement of a content certificate*
- Special education certificates issued by grade span
  - Evidence of a passing score on the appropriate grade level content test(s) OR by holding the appropriate RI general educator certificate
- Validity/Role(s)
  - May serve in self-contained settings in the content area designated OR may provide services directly to students in general education or other settings in any content area

(1.9.1 Sec B, 1.9.2 Sec B, 1.9.3 Sec F,  
1.9.4 Sec K, 1.9.5 Sec N, Sec O)



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# All Grades Special Education Deaf and Hard of Hearing Certificates

*Sub-dividing one certificate into two specialized certificates to meet the models of instruction and support for RI students who are deaf or hard of hearing*

- All Grades Special Education - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher PK-12 - **American Sign Language**
  - Same as the current ALL Grades Special Education Teacher – Deaf and Hard of Hearing (11582)
  - Evidence of passing the RI American Sign Language test
  - Independent certificate
- Validity/Role(s)
  - Valid for assignment as a Special Education - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher - American Sign Language in Grades PK-12 in Rhode Island Public Schools



(1.9.5 Sec M)

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# All Grades Special Education Deaf and Hard of Hearing Certificates

(cont.)

- All Grades Special Education - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher PK-12 - **Oral/Aural Communication**
  - Mirrors Deaf and Hard of Hearing requirements
  - Evidence of passing the RI American Sign Language test OR evidence of 3 credits in American Sign Language
  - Independent certificate
- Validity/Role
  - Assignment as a Special Education - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher - Oral/Aural Communication in Grades PK-12 in Rhode Island Public Schools
  - May not serve as a teacher of record for early childhood, elementary, middle or secondary classrooms.



(1.9.5 Sec M)

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# All Grades ESOL Pre-K 12 Certificate

- *Specialized instruction without the requirement of a content certificate*
- Provide English language development support to students in grades PK-12
- Validity/Role
  - May not serve as the teacher of record for early childhood, elementary, middle level, secondary grades, or all grades content unless additional certification is held by the educator



(1.9.5 Sec Q)

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# Other Certification Updates

## ➤ Fee waiver shortage areas

- Applications for the Expert Residency Shortage Areas certificate now have an initial application fee of \$0

## ➤ Advanced Certificate eligibility pathways

- Completion of NISL is now an additional Advanced Certificate pathway



(1.5 Sec B, 1.8.4 Sec A)

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# Next Steps for Educators Impacted

- RIDE will communicate the certification regulation changes through multiple outlets.
- Educators impacted by the certification changes will have until **Dec 31, 2020 (90 days)** to:
  - Request updates to their certificates at no additional fee

# Certification Staff Support



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