

MIDDLE GRADES SPECIAL EDUCATION - MILD/MODERATE CERTIFICATE (11381) Grades 5-8

The Middle Grades Special Education Teacher, Grades 5-8 Certificate is valid for assignment in grades 5-8 in Rhode Island public schools as a Middle Grades Special Education Teacher.

Certification Requirements for full Rhode Island Certification¹

To be issued a Middle Grades Special Education Teacher, Grades 5-8 certificate an applicant must satisfy all of the following:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Completion of an approved program or Credential Review Consortium Institution (CRCI) credential review plan for the preparation of Middle Grades Special Education Teachers, Grades 5-8
- Completion of 12 weeks of Student Teaching in this area and a minimum of 60 hours of field experience prior to student teaching
- Demonstration of meeting the Professional Competencies of the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS)
- Demonstration of meeting the Content Competencies as prescribed by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Other Requirements:
 - Hold a Middle Grades Education Teacher, Grades 1-6 stand along, elementary extension or secondary extension certificate
 - Meet all Rhode Island pedagogy and subject matter testing requirements for this certificate area

Assessment Requirements

Go to www.ets.org for test registration, dates and locations

All applicants must meet the following Rhode Island assessment requirements:

- Applicants must achieve a passing score Special Education: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications (5543).
- Applicants prepared in a program where the language of instruction was not English must achieve a passing score of 64 on the Versant Pro Speaking and Writing English assessments.

NOTE: Educators seeking a Middle Grades Special Education Certificate who have not taken the Principles of Learning and Teaching K-6 (5622), Principles of Learning and Teaching 5-9 (5623) or Principles of Learning and Teaching 7-12 (5624), must take and pass Principles of Learning and Teaching 5-9 (5623) with a passing score of 160 in addition to the defined assessment(s) below in order to be eligible for this certificate.

¹ Full Certification in Rhode Island means a multi-year certificate that demonstrates the educator has met all Rhode Island requirements for certification in the three-tier certification system (Initial, Professional, or Advanced certification). Full Certification does not include Preliminary Certifications which require educators to meet additional requirements to attain full certifications. Full certifications in Rhode Island are comparable to National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) stage three or higher certificates and are recognized by other states for certificate reciprocity.

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Current Routes to Certification

Certification may be attained through the following routes:

- **Reciprocity** - Reciprocity is recognition of preparation or certification in another state as comparable to Rhode Island. Applicants seeking certification through reciprocity must demonstrate that they meet all Rhode Island certification assessment requirements, hold the additional required certificate and meet all experience requirements when applicable. Applicants can attain certification by completing a state approved program for Educator Certification in a state other than Rhode Island within the last 5 years OR by demonstrating that they hold a currently valid full certificate in another state.
- **CRCI** - Completion of CRCI Credential Review plan. For more information review the [Credential Review Pathways website](#).

