

MIDDLE AND SECONDARY LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATION - MILD/MODERATE CERTIFICATE Grades 7 - 12

The Middle and Secondary Level Special Education - Mild/Moderate Certificate is valid for assignment as a teacher of students with mild/moderate disabilities in grades 7 - 12, or as a teacher of students with mild/moderate disabilities ages 14 -21 in Rhode Island public schools.

Certification Requirements for full Rhode Island Certification¹

Requirements for Option 1:

To be issued a certificate in Middle and Secondary Level Special Education - Mild/Moderate an applicant must satisfy all of the following:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Completion of an approved program for the preparation of Middle and Secondary Level Special Education - Mild/Moderate Teacher
- Completion of 6 semester hours of Student Teaching in this area
- 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:
 - Meets all Eligibility requirements for the Elementary Education certificate, any Middle Grades Stand Alone certificate or any Secondary Grades certificate and met all Rhode Island assessment requirements for the applicable 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 of 157 on the Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching 7-12 (0624/5624) AND a passing score of 164 on the Praxis II Special Education: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications (0543/5543).
- 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.

Current Routes to Certification

Certification may be attained through the following routes:

- Completion of RI approved program from one of the following: Providence College, Rhode Island College, University of Rhode Island
- Reciprocity

Reciprocity Requirements

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

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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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.

Transcript Analysis Requirements

- Not less than 24 semester hours of coursework in each of the following areas:
 - Introduction to Education of Exceptional Students
 - Characteristics of Students with Special Needs
 - Behavior Management
 - Assessment of Students who have mild/moderate disabilities
 - Curriculum and Methodologies for students who have mild/moderate disabilities at the middle/secondary level
 - Language and Speech Development
 - Vocational Programming for the Mild/Moderately Disabled
 - Collaboration, Home /School/Community
 - Teaching of Reading
- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Meets all Eligibility requirements for the Elementary Education certificate, any Middle Grades Stand Alone certificate or any Secondary Grades certificate
- Applicants must meet all assessment requirements for Elementary OR Secondary Education
- Applicants must achieve a passing score of 164 on the Praxis II Special Education: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications (0543/5543).
- 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 assessments.
- Meet all Rhode Island assessment requirement(s) for this certificate area

The student teaching requirement may be waived for an applicant who has had two or more documented years of successful teaching experience in an approved special education middle/secondary setting. Certified teachers who have had two or more years of teaching experience and who seek Special Education - Middle/Secondary level certification may fulfill the student teaching requirement by completing a one-year supervised internship at the special education - middle/secondary level. After completing the necessary course work for the Special Education- Middle/Secondary Level certificate, and arranging through the local community for a one-year internship, the Superintendent of Schools may request the issuance of a Professional certificate. The Department of Education must approve the internship in advance and the supervisor must have at least three (3) years of teaching experience.