



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
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Certification Redesign: Glossary of Terms

Definitions

As used in the *Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island*, promulgated November 3, 2011, the following words and terms have the following meaning.

Administrator Certificate

An “Administrator Certificate” is issued to educators whose primary duties may include the supervision of programs or curriculum or the supervision or management of a local educational agency, a school building, a school program, or a school system.

Administrator Knowledge of Field Competencies

“Administrative Knowledge of Field Competencies” is the knowledge and skills established by the applicable national professional association as core competencies for administrators that define the range of expectations for the specific certification administrative position(s) addressed by the certification area.

Administrator Knowledge of Field Testing

“Administrator Knowledge of Field Testing” is the use of assessments to evaluate the knowledge of field and skills of a prospective administrator in the specific administrator area.

Advanced Educator Certificate

“Advanced Educator Certificate” is the third and highest level in the three-tier system of full certification. This level of certification is held by educators who consistently demonstrate highly effective practice.

Alternate Route Preliminary Certificate

“Alternate Route Preliminary Certificate” is a preliminary certificate awarded to prospective educators who are enrolled in a Rhode Island approved alternate route preparation program and who have been offered a position in a district to serve as an educator of record while completing certification requirements.

Approved Program Route to Educator Certification

An “Approved Program” is a post-secondary educator preparation program that holds approved status under the program approval standards of the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Building Level Administrator

A “Building Level Administrator” is any individual responsible for the administration of a PK-12 school, including principals, assistant principals, and charter school chief administrators.

Career and Technical Education Preliminary Certificate

“Career and Technical Education Preliminary Certificate” is a preliminary certificate awarded to prospective educators who have a high school diploma and who have demonstrated that they have appropriate work experience in their respective career and technical fields. These prospective

educators can seek employment as teachers of record in employing agencies that are willing to employ them while the individuals pursue full certification.

Certificate

“Certificate” is a document issued by the Rhode Island Department of Education that identifies the area(s) of certification held by an educator and the date of issuance and date of expiration between which the certificate is valid.

Certification Area

A “Certification Area” identifies the specific educational subject matter and grade ranges that a teacher is qualified to teach (e.g., 7-12 Biology Teacher), the specific level of administration and grade ranges that an administrator is qualified to lead (e.g., PK-12 Building Level Administrator), or the specific role in which a support professional is qualified to serve (e.g., PK-12 School Counselor).

Certification Route

A “Certification Route” is a pathway of preparation through which a prospective educator attains certification (e.g., completion of an approved program, reciprocity using certification in another state).

Certification Fees

“Certification Fees” are fees set by the Board of Regents to issue certificates.

Credential Development Plan

Prospective Educators who hold a preliminary certificate while pursuing certification develop a “Credential Development Plan” for review and monitoring by the Department of Education to gain certification. The plan describes how the individual will demonstrate evidence of meeting competency, assessment, and field experience requirements.

Credential Review Route to Certification

“Credential Review Route” is the process of reviewing an applicant’s preparation against a set of standards and criteria to determine eligibility for certification. The process of review may include a review of preparation, field experience, and testing results.

Educator of Record

An “Educator of Record” is a certified teacher, administrator, or support professional in Rhode Island public schools. Teachers of record are responsible for providing instruction and determining student grades. Administrators of record are responsible for the supervision and management of schools, school programs, and school districts. Support professionals of record are responsible for instructional leadership or serving as a specialist/consultant or a related service provider.

Emergency Route Preliminary Certificate

“Emergency Route Preliminary Certificate” is a preliminary certificate awarded to prospective educators at the request of an employing agency when a fully-certified and qualified educator who meets the criteria for the position cannot be secured.

Employing Agency

An “Employing Agency” is any school committee, school board, charter school, educational collaborative, state approved special education program and state funded pre-kindergarten program, or other public school entity responsible for hiring certified educators.

English Language Competency Testing

“English Language Competency Testing” is the assessment of competency in English for prospective educators who completed educator preparation in a program where the language of instruction was a language other than English.

Expert Residency Preliminary Certificate

“Expert Residency Preliminary Certificate” is a preliminary certificate awarded to prospective educators who demonstrate sufficient preparation in subject matter, administrative expertise, or other certificate area specific requirements to be considered for positions as educators while pursuing certification. These prospective educators can seek employment as teachers of record in employing agencies that are willing to employ them while the individual pursues full certification. Certified educators seeking to add new certification areas may also use the Expert Residency Certificate as part of a route to certification in that area.

Extension of Certificate

An “Extension of Certificate” provides for one-year extensions of certificates when certified educators experience an interruption in employment and are unable to provide performance data from state approved local evaluations for each year of a certificate at the time of certificate renewal.

Full Certificate

A Rhode Island “Full Certificate” is a multi-year certificate that demonstrates the educator has met all Rhode Island requirements for certification and is included in the three-tier system of Rhode Island Educator certificates. A full certificate is comparable to the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Stage 3 License and is recognized by other states for certificate reciprocity. Educators certified in other states seeking certification in Rhode Island present a valid Stage 3 license from their state to attain reciprocity.

Initial Educator Certificate

“Initial Educator Certificate” is the first level in the three-tier system of full certification. This level of certification is held by all educators when they are certified for the first time in Rhode Island.

Internship

An “Internship” is an extended field-based experience that provides a prospective administrator or support professional the opportunity to develop skills in school or school district contexts.

Local Educator Evaluation System

A “local educator evaluation system” is a Rhode Island Department of Education approved educator evaluation system that meets Rhode Island Educator Evaluation System Standards.

Major Equivalent

Applicants who did not complete a major in the required content field may present a “major equivalent” of thirty or more hours of coursework in a closely related content field deemed to be acceptable by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC)

The “National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC)” is a professional organization that represents professional standards boards, commissions and state departments of education in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Educational Activity, and the U.S. Territories which are responsible for the preparation, licensure and discipline of educational personnel. NASDTEC administers the Interstate Agreement for Educator Licensure that supports reciprocity of certification across the various state jurisdictions.

Pedagogy Testing

“Pedagogy Testing” is the use of assessments to evaluate the knowledge of teaching of a prospective teacher.

Performance-based Non-renewal

“Performance-based Non-renewal” of a certificate occurs when an employed educator has received a rating of Ineffective on the state-approved local evaluation system for each year of work under the certificate submitted for renewal.

Practicum

A “Practicum” is a field-based experience in educator preparation that provides the prospective educator the opportunity to apply knowledge in the context of a school or other educational setting. Practicum is a requirement to add an additional category of teaching certification beyond a first area of teaching certification (e.g. Elementary Education adding Middle Grades Education).

Preliminary Educator Certificates

“Preliminary Educator Certificates” are certificates that allow educators who are not fully certified to serve as educators of record while pursuing certification. Alternate Route Preliminary, Career and Technical Education Preliminary, Emergency Preliminary, Expert Residency Preliminary, Temporary Initial Educator Preliminary, and Visiting Lecturer Preliminary are the six types of preliminary educator certificates. These certificates are not “full certificates” at Stage 3 of the National Association of State Directors of Education and Certification (NASDTEC) certification system and do not qualify for certification in other states through reciprocity.

Professional Competencies

“Professional Competencies” are the knowledge and skills defined in the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards, the Rhode Island Standards for Educational Leaders, and national professional associations (e.g. American School Counselor Association, International Reading Association) that articulate the professional standards for all teachers, administrators, and support professionals.

Professional Educator Certificate

“Professional Educator Certificate” is the second level in the three-tier system of full certification. This level of certification is awarded to holders of Initial Educator Certificates once they demonstrate acceptable levels of performance while working under their Initial Educator Certificate.

Reciprocity Route to Educator Certification

“Reciprocity Route to Educator Certification” is the process by which Rhode Island issues certification to educators who completed approved educator preparation programs or hold full certification in another state.

Reinstatement Fee

The “Reinstatement Fee” is the fee charged to reinstate an expired certificate or a certificate that was non-renewed based on performance. The appropriate certification fee is also required for reinstatement.

Regionally Accredited Institution

A “Regionally Accredited Institution” is a college or university that awards a bachelor’s or higher degree and if located within the United States, is fully accredited by one of the following regional accrediting bodies: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS)

The “Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards” are the standards that identify the professional knowledge and skills expected of all teachers.

Rhode Island Standards for Education Leaders (RISEL)

The “Rhode Island Standards for Education Leaders” are the standards that identify the professional knowledge and skills expected of all administrators.

Student Teaching

“Student Teaching is a field-based experience in educator preparation that provides the prospective educator the opportunity to apply knowledge in the context of a school or other educational setting. Student teaching is a requirement to earn a first teaching certificate or when adding an additional category of teaching certification (e.g. Elementary Education adding Secondary Education).

Substitute Permit

A “Substitute Permit” is a permit that allows individuals to serve as day-to-day substitute teachers in Rhode Island Public Schools.

Support Professional Certificate

A “Support Professional Certificate” is issued to an educator, other than a teacher or administrator, who has primary responsibility as an instructional leader, a specialist/consultant, or a related service provider in schools.

Support Professional Knowledge of Field Competencies

“Support Professional Knowledge of Field Competencies” is the knowledge and skills established by the applicable national professional association as core competencies for support professionals that define the range of expectations for the specific support professional position(s) addressed by the certification area.

Support Professional Knowledge of Field Testing

“Support Professional Knowledge of Field Testing” is the use of assessments to evaluate the knowledge of field and skills of a prospective support professional in the specific support professional area.

Teacher Certificate

A “Teacher Certificate” is issued to a person whose primary responsibility is to instruct students.

Teacher Content Competencies

“Teacher Content Competencies” are the knowledge and skills defined by professional associations as core subject matter competencies for teachers within the specific certification content area.

Teacher Content Testing

“Teacher Content Testing” is the use of assessments to evaluate the subject matter knowledge and skills of a prospective teacher in the specific teaching area.

Temporary Initial Educator Preliminary Certificate

A “Temporary Initial Educator Certificate” is a Preliminary Certificate issued for a limited duration to applicants who seek certification through reciprocity and who meet all requirements for the Initial Educator Certificate except for the testing requirement, including the English Language Competency Test when applicable. This certificate allows the applicant time to take the test that may not have been available in their state. The educator does not have a Rhode Island Stage 3 National

Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) “full certificate” until the testing requirement is met and an Initial Educator Certificate is issued.

Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certificate

“Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certificate” is a preliminary certificate awarded to individuals with distinctive qualifications and therefore a unique capacity to enhance educational programs in districts and who have been offered employment in districts. This certificate is not a route to full certification.