



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
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The Rhode Island Certification Regulations: Issuance, Renewal and Reinstatement of Certificates

The Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approved on November 3, 2011 new certification regulations entitled “Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island.” The information provided below outlines the process for the issuance, renewal, and reinstatement of educator certifications.

Overview of Certification Issuance and Renewal:

Certification Issuance is the process by which RIDE reviews an applicant’s credentials to determine if an applicant has met specified criteria to be issued an educator certification in a particular area (e.g. Elementary Education, Music Education, Building Administrator, and School Counselor). Certification renewal is the process by which RIDE determines if a certified educator has met specified criteria to renew their currently held certification(s). Effective January 1, 2012, renewal of all educator¹ certifications that are issued after January 1, 2012 will be based exclusively on evaluation ratings.

Certification Issuance and Renewal

Two types of certification requirements, ‘Issuance Requirements’ and ‘Renewal Requirements’ that guide the issuance and renewal of educator certification.

Issuance Requirements

- Issuance requirements are criteria that an applicant must meet prior to attaining a certification (e.g. hold a degree or a specified independent certification, years of experience, coursework, and certification tests)
- Any applicant who seeks to become certified in Rhode Island or any currently certified educator who seeks to add a new certification area must meet all issuance requirements prior to attaining a certification
- Issuance requirements for each certificate area can be viewed at <http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Certification/certreqs.aspx>

Renewal Requirements

- Renewal requirements are criteria that an educator must meet prior to renewing a certification
- Certification regulations specify that the *only* renewal requirements that an educator must meet to renew a certification that is issued after January 1, 2012 is to provide evidence of effective practice as determined by evaluation ratings on state approved local evaluation systems
- Educators must provide evidence of at least one evaluation rating of ‘Developing’ or higher during the length of their certification to demonstrate effective practice and attain certification renewal

¹ Educators who seek to renew a One Year Professional Career and Technical Educator or School Nurse Teacher certificate must also meet course and degree renewal requirements.

Certification Renewal Process

- An educator can renew their certification(s) beginning in January of the year their certification(s) expire
- Renewal of any current professional certifications requires only submission of a completed application and the appropriate certification fee
- Once an educator renews their current certification(s), they enter into the new certification system in which future renewals will be based on evidence of effective practice as demonstrated by evaluation ratings from state approved local evaluation system

Overview of Certification Reinstatement

Certification reinstatement is the process by which RIDE reinstates an expired certification if an educator has met specified criteria that are required to reinstate an expired certification. RIDE maintains two reinstatement processes: reinstatement for expired certifications and reinstatement for certifications that were not renewed due to performance.

Certification Expiration: an educator did not renew their certifications prior to the certificate expiration date

An educator can reinstate their expired certification by completing the following:

- Submit a completed application for review along with the appropriate certification fee and reinstatement fee
- Provide any necessary documentation as indicated on the certification application
- Demonstrate meeting all current certification issuance requirements including all assessment requirements for the particular certification area

Performance-related non-renewal: an educator's certification was not renewed due to performance

An educator can reinstate their non-renewed certification by completing the following:

- Submit a completed application for review along with the appropriate certification fee and reinstatement fee
- Provide evidence of retraining and supervised practice specific to their evaluation ratings and identified areas for growth