



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

### **Temporary Initial Educator Certification**

The Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approved on November 3, 2011 new certification regulations entitled "Regulations Governing Certification of Educators in Rhode Island." The new regulations impact how Rhode Island educators attain certification, the types of certifications that are offered, the assignments for which they are eligible, and how they renew their certifications. Some of the elements of the new regulations went into effect on January 1, 2012 and the remainder of the regulations will go into effect on January 1, 2015.

### **Overview**

The Temporary Initial Educator Certification is a Preliminary Certification<sup>1</sup> and not Full Rhode Island Certification<sup>2</sup>. The Temporary Initial Educator Certificate is available to out of state certified educators or individuals who have completed approved educator preparation programs in other states, and meet all Rhode Island certification requirements *except* Rhode Island certification assessment requirements. These educators may apply for the Temporary Initial Educator Certification which allows them to serve in Rhode Island public schools for no more than one year while they meet the appropriate certification assessment requirements. Upon successful completion of the appropriate assessment requirements, the educator applies for Full Rhode Island Certification.

### **Requirements**

#### **Conditions for Issuance:**

- The Department may issue a Temporary Initial Educator Preliminary Certificate if an applicant has completed an approved preparation program or is certified in another state and meets the preparation and eligibility requirements for an Initial Educator Certificate but has not taken Rhode Island required assessments and presented evidence of passing scores.
- The Temporary Initial Educator Preliminary Certificate is non renewable and will only be issued to an applicant one time.
- The applicant's rating on the state approved local evaluation system will be included in the three years of evaluation data that are the basis for renewal of the Initial Educator Certificate.

#### **Conditions for Renewal**

This certificate is not renewable.

#### **Certification Areas**

All teacher areas, all administrator areas, and all support professional areas are included.

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary Educator Certification is a certification that allows educators who are not fully certified to serve as educators of record while pursuing certification.

<sup>2</sup> Full Certification 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.