

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE Grades Pre- Kindergarten-Grades 12

The English as a Second Language Specialist Certificate is valid for assignment as an English as a Second Language Specialist (self contained or resource model program) in grades Pre K-12 in Rhode Island public schools.

Certification Requirements for full Rhode Island Certification¹

To be issued a certificate in English as a Second Language Specialist 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 English as a Second Language Specialist within the previous five(5) years from the date of application

Assessment Requirements

All applicants must meet the following Rhode Island assessment requirements:

- Applicants must achieve a passing score of 160 on the Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching- Grades K-6 (0622/5622) OR a passing score of 157 on the Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching - Grades 7-12 (0624/5624) AND a passing score of 146 on the English to Speakers of Other Languages test (0361/5361).
- 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:

- Reciprocity
- Transcript Analysis

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 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

Applicants who have not completed an approved program or do not meet reciprocity requirements can be certified by Transcript Analysis until December 31, 2014. Beginning January 1, 2015 a Credential Review process will replace transcript analysis in areas for which there are no Rhode Island approved preparation programs.

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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- Applicants who have not completed an approved program can be certified by transcript analysis by presenting evidence of the following:
 - Six(6) semester hours of student teaching in the relevant area and at the appropriate grade level
 - Not less than 24 semester hours of coursework include work in EACH of the following areas:
 - Human Growth and Development
 - Identification and Service to Special Needs Students
 - Introduction to English Linguistics
 - Theories of First and Second Language Acquisition
 - Curriculum and Methods for ESL Programs
 - Second Language Assessment and Evaluation
 - Socio-Cultural Foundations of ESL Education
 - Second Language Literacy for LEP Learners
 - Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
 - 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 English as a Second Language setting. Certified teachers who have had two or more years teaching experience and who seek English as a Second Language certification may fulfill the student teaching requirement by completing a one-year supervised internship at the English as a Second Language level. After completing the necessary course work for the English as a Second Language certificate, and arranging through the local community for a one-year internship, the Superintendent of Schools may request the issuance of a one-year professional certificate. The Department of Education must approve the internship in advance and the supervisor must have at least three years of teaching experience in the relevant area and at the appropriate grade level. Upon successful completion of the internship, the individual will be issued a five year professional certificate.