

Certification Regulation Update Overview

The Rhode Island Department of Education, as approved by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, is proposing changes to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island (200-RICR-20-20-1). The following table is a summary of the changes in the proposed regulations.

Regulations Section	Key Topic	Proposed Change	Why the Proposed Change is Important
1.2.A.18	Definition: Endorsement	Added language: “Endorsements are not equivalent to teaching certificates and do not qualify an individual for an assignment as a teacher-of-record in a public school”	There is confusion in the field between endorsements and certificates, so this should help clarify things.
1.2.A.27	Definition: Interstate Flexibility	Added a definition for interstate flexibility	This defines what this specific type of reciprocity is.
1.3.2	Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards	Language of the standards has been updated to reflect the current educational landscape	These standards hadn’t been updated since 2007, and the educational landscape in RI has changed since then.
1.6.B.1.a	Content Testing	Ability to pilot an opportunity for educators to demonstrate content proficiency without submitting the required minimum passing score	The content exam is costly and there is a time gap during which one cannot retake the exam.
1.7.C	Reciprocity	Expanding the interstate flexibility section of reciprocity to the states of Alabama, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin	Expanding interstate flexibilities with additional states could encourage more educators to move to RI to teach.
1.7.E	Performance Review Pilot	Ability to create a pilot opportunity for educators to attain certification	This provides a new flexible pathway to certification.

		through a performance review program	
1.8.4	Advanced Educator Certificate	Added aspirational benchmarks leading to an Advanced Educator Certificate	This creates more opportunities for educators to further their growth and obtain an Advanced certificate.
1.8.6	Preliminary Certificates	Removal of Expert Residency Shortages Preliminary Certificate and Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certificate Added International Teacher Preliminary Certificate and Registered Apprenticeship Preliminary Certificate	The certificates being removed were never issued. We need certificates allowing registered apprentices and international teachers to work in Rhode Island.
1.8.8	Rhode Island Alternate Route Program Standards	Aligned minimum admission requirements with those set for other educator preparation programs	This allows more flexibility for alternate route programs to enroll candidates.
1.8.9	Career and Technical Education	Added opportunity for certified Rhode Island educators to meet equivalent occupational experience to earn a Career and Technical Education Preliminary Certificate	This allows experienced educators flexibility to earn an additional certificate.
1.8.10	Emergency Preliminary Certificate	Added a requirement for the employing agency to provide induction support for all new educators working under an emergency certificate	This puts onus on the LEA requesting the emergency certificate to support the educator.
1.8.11	Expert Residency Preliminary Certificate	Changed validity to four years with one three-year renewal	This aligns with other preliminary certificates.

		Added a recommendation by the employing agency for renewal	
1.8.12	International Teacher Preliminary Certificate	Added a certificate specific to educators who are certified in another country who wish to teach in Rhode Island temporarily	This eliminates the need to use emergency certificates for these educators.
1.8.13	Fast-Track Principal Preliminary Certificate	Collapsed the Fast-Track Principal Expert Residency Preliminary Certificate and the Fast Track PK-12 Building-Level Administrator Certificate into one Fast-Track Principal Preliminary Certificate	This will lessen confusion in the field.
1.8.14	Registered Apprenticeship Preliminary Certificate	Created a preliminary certificate for those working in a role through a RIDE-recognized registered apprenticeship program	This new certificate area creates an additional pathway to certification.
1.8.16	Endorsements	Added language: “Endorsements are not equivalent to teaching certificates and do not qualify an individual for an assignment as a teacher-of-record in a public school.”	This should reduce the confusion between what endorsements and certificates allow an educator to do.
1.9.1	Early Childhood Teacher Certificate	Allows educators with a valid Elementary or All Grades Certificate and three years of teaching experience in Rhode Island to add an Early Childhood Teacher Certificate with evidence of passing the appropriate content test	This will give experienced educators flexibility to move into new positions while maintaining high expectations regarding content knowledge.

1.9.2	Elementary Teacher Certificate	Allows educators with a valid Early Childhood, Middle, or All Grades Certificate and three years of teaching experience in Rhode Island to add an Elementary Grades Certificate with evidence of passing the appropriate content test	This will give experienced educators flexibility to move into new positions while maintaining high expectations regarding content knowledge.
1.9.3	Middle Grades Teacher Certificate	Allows educators with a valid Elementary, Middle, Secondary, or All Grades Certificate and three years of teaching experience in Rhode Island to add a Middle Grades Certificate with evidence of passing the appropriate content test	This will give experienced educators flexibility to move into new positions while maintaining high expectations regarding content knowledge.
1.9.4	Secondary Grades Teacher Certificate	Allows educators with a valid Elementary, Middle, Secondary, or All Grades Certificate and three years of teaching experience in Rhode Island to add a Secondary Grades Certificate with evidence of passing the appropriate content test	This will give experienced educators flexibility to move into new positions while maintaining high expectations regarding content knowledge.
1.9.5	All Grades Teacher Certificate	Allows educators with a valid All Grades Certificate and three years of teaching experience in Rhode Island to add an additional All Grades Certificate with evidence of passing the appropriate content test	This will give experienced educators flexibility to move into new positions while maintaining high expectations regarding content knowledge.

1.9.1.C 1.9.2.C 1.9.3.G 1.9.4.L 1.9.5.T	MLL Integrated Content Teacher Certificate	Creation of a new certificate that allows one to provide language instruction through the content of one's class	This will demonstrate that educators have some experience in language instruction within their content area.
1.10.2.C	District-Level Administrator - MLL	Creation of a new administrator certificate specific to MLLs	This role will provide oversight for a district serving a large number of MLLs.
1.9.5.F	Health/PE/APE Certificate	Creation of a new certificate that certifies an educator in Health, Physical Education, and Adaptive Physical Education	These certificates are currently offered individually, but many educators in Rhode Island need all three and have to pay for three separate certificates. This will reduce the cost to educators.
1.9.1 1.9.2 1.9.4	Grade Spans	Changed grade spans: Early Childhood: PK-2 will now be PK-3 Elementary: 1-6 will now be K-6 Elementary Special Education: 1-6 will now be K-8 Secondary: 7-12 will now be 6-12	This will allow LEAs more flexibility with staffing
1.10.2.D	School Business Administrator	Removed option to complete an approved program Removed proficiency in the RISELs	These were not valid options because no approved programs exist in Rhode Island

1.11	Support Professional Certificate Areas	Removal of Instructional Leader Certificate and English as a Second Language Specialist/Consultant Certificate	We no longer need these certificates.
1.14	Reinstatement	<p>Increased the time since an educator's certificate has lapsed from 1 to 3 years for them to pay a fee and have it reinstated</p> <p>Added language allowing an educator to reinstate if they show evidence of holding a valid out-of-state certificate and successful teaching during work experience for three out of the most recent five years</p>	This simplifies the reinstatement process for educators.