

# ALL GRADES SPECIAL EDUCATION - VISUALLY IMPAIRED CERTIFICATE (11583) PK - Grade 12

The All Grades Special Education - Visually Impaired Certificate is valid for assignment as an All Grades Special Education - Visually Impaired teacher in grades PK - Grade 12 in Rhode Island public schools.

## **Certification Requirements for full Rhode Island Certification<sup>1</sup>**

To be issued a certificate in All Grades Special Education - Visually Impaired an applicant must satisfy all of the following:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Completion of an approved program or RIDE Credential Review for the preparation of All Grades Special Education - Visually Impaired Teachers
- Completion of a minimum of 12 weeks of Student Teaching in this area and a minimum of 60 hours Field Experience prior to Student Teaching
- Demonstration of meeting the Professional Competencies of the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS)
- Demonstration of meeting the Content Competencies as prescribed by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Other requirements:
  - Hold a Rhode Island Early Childhood, Elementary, or Secondary Content Area Certificate and met all Rhode Island assessment requirements for this certificate area
  - Demonstrated competency in reading and writing Braille

## **Assessment Requirements**

Go to [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org) for test registration, dates and locations

### **All applicants must meet the following Rhode Island assessment requirements:**

- Applicants must achieve a passing score of 163 on the Praxis II Special Education Teaching Students with Visual Impairments test (5282).
- 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** - 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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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- **RIDE Credential Review:** Applicants who have not completed an approved program can be certified by RIDE Credential Review by presenting evidence of the following:
  - 6 semester hours of student teaching in the relevant area and at the appropriate grade levels(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 all grades visually impaired setting.)
  - Not less than 24 semester hours of coursework to include work in each of the following areas:
    - Introduction to education of students who are blind/partially sighted
    - Psychology of students who are blind/partially sighted
    - Anatomy and Physiology of the Human Eye
    - Assessment for students who are blind/partially sighted
    - Curriculum and Methods for students who are blind/partially sighted
    - Fundamentals of Reading and Writing Braille
    - Foundations of Orientation and Mobility
    - Techniques of Working with Severe/Multi-Disabled
    - Behavior Management
  - Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
  - Hold a Rhode Island Early Childhood, Elementary, or Secondary Content Area Certificate and met all Rhode Island assessment requirements for this certificate area
  - Demonstrated competency in reading and writing Braille
  - Meet all Rhode Island assessment requirement(s) for this certificate area