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Certification Redesign: Charter School Certification

The new certification regulations, *Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island*, promulgated on November 3, 2011 by the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education were a comprehensive revision of the Rhode Island educator certification system. As stated in the regulations, the new certification regulations “supersede all of the Board’s previous regulations governing the certification of educators in Rhode Island.” The Office of Educator Quality and Certification has issued several guidance documents to clarify how the new regulations will be implemented and how they will impact various groups such as currently certified educators, prospective educators, middle school educators and charter school educators.

The chart below details how the new certification regulations impact charter school educators. The chart identifies the primary roles educators perform in charter schools, the certification areas that correspond to the roles, if certification is required to serve in that role, and representative responsibilities for individuals who serve in that role. While charter school organization, structure, and the performance of responsibilities within a specific charter school may vary due to their unique and distinct nature, all charter schools are required to minimally employ a certified Chief Academic/Instructional Administrator, a certified Special Education Director, certified Support Professionals, and certified Teachers.

Role	Certification Area	Required/ Not Required	Representative Responsibilities
Chief Executive	Superintendent of Schools	Not Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and manage school governance • Lead and monitor community relations • Lead and monitor advocacy and fundraising efforts • Manage and facilitate organizational development • Support the recruitment of staff and students
Chief Academic/ Instructional Administrator	Building Level Administrator PK 12	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide instructional leadership • Recruit, develop, supervise, and evaluate staff • Recruit and supervise students • Lead, manage, and evaluate school programs • Lead, manage, and evaluate school curriculum
Special Education Director	District Level Administrator – Special Education	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and evaluate programs for students with special needs • Coordinate special education staff • Develop, manage, and evaluate special education curriculum

Role	Certification Area	Required/ Not Required	Representative Responsibilities
Curriculum Director	District Level Administrator – Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	Not Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, manage, and evaluate school curriculum • Support staff development • Support and provide instructional leadership
School Business Administrator	School Business Administrator	Not Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and manage school business operations • Direct and manage school finances • Direct and manage budget development and budget control process • Direct and manage financial reporting
Support Professional	Support Professional (e.g. School Counselor, School Psychologist, Social Worker)	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support services for students and staff • Provide consultation and collaboration services for students and staff • Support and facilitate program development and evaluation • Support and facilitate staff development
Teacher	Teacher (e.g. Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary, All Grades)	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide instruction of students • Supervise students • Support curriculum development • Support and participate in staff development