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**The Rhode Island Certification Regulations:
 English as a Second Language and Bilingual and Dual Language Certifications**

The Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approved on November 3, 2011 new certification regulations entitled “Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island.” The new regulations impact how Rhode Island educators attain certification, the assignments for which they are eligible, and how they will renew their certificates. Some of the elements of the new regulations went into effect on January 1, 2012 the remainder of the regulations will go into effect on January 1, 2015. The chart below details the implementation dates for these key elements.

Overview of Certification Regulations: Key Changes and Effective Dates that Impact all Rhode Island Educators

Key Changes effective January 1, 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIDE now issues three types of certificates: a 3 year Initial, 5 year Professional, or 7 year Advanced Certificate. Renewal of an educator’s certificate will be based on evaluation ratings that demonstrate effective practice • To better meet the needs of Rhode Island educators and streamline the certification process, all endorsements (Bilingual and Dual Language, ESL, and Middle School) have been renamed certificates for consistent terminology • Several certification areas have been revised and updated to provide additional flexibility in the assignment of educators (e.g. School Counselor, School Principal, and Social Studies)
Key Changes effective January 1, 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIDE will offer additional pathways to attain certification by issuing three new types of Preliminary Certificates (Expert Residency, Temporary Initial Educator, and Visiting Lecturer) • Several new Full Certificates will be added to meet district, curriculum, and educator’s needs (e.g. PK-12 World Language, Instructional Leader, Mathematics Specialist/Consultant) • Credential Review will replace the Transcript Analysis process and Credential Review will only be available in certificate areas that do not have Rhode Island approved preparation programs

Additional Certification Regulation Changes that Impact all Rhode Island Educators

- Educators progress between certification tiers, Initial, Professional, and Advanced, based on their performance as determined by evaluation ratings from state approved local evaluation systems
- Educators seeking a new certification area must meet all issuance requirements for the new certificate area, including attaining a required passing score on all certification tests
- Educators who allow their certificates to expire need to meet any issuance requirements to reinstate their certificates

Certification Regulations: Impact on ESL and Bilingual and Dual Language Certification

The Certification Regulations also impact ESL and Bilingual and Dual Language certifications. All ESL endorsements have been renamed ESL certificates for the purposes of streamlining certificates and consistent terminology. ESL and Bilingual and Dual Language certificates are now issued by grade level to ensure alignment to general education certificates. Educators seeking an ESL or Bilingual and Dual Language certificate must hold the general education certificate prior to gaining issuance of the ESL or Bilingual and Dual Language certificate. Applicants seeking issuance of an ESL certificate are no longer required to take two World language courses. RIDE will continue to issue the current ESL Specialist certificate (teacher-based) until 2015 at which time it will no longer be issued, only renewed for current holders. In 2015, an ESL Specialist /Consultant certificate will be offered. In this role the ESL Specialist/Consultant will work with ELLs, support general education teachers, and oversee and manage ESL programs.

Overview of Certification Regulations: Key Changes that impact ESL and Bilingual and Dual Language Educators

The chart below provides an overview of the key changes in the new certification regulations that specifically impact ESL and Bilingual and Dual Language certifications. As with the above chart, some of the changes go into effect on January 1, 2012 and others go into effect on January 1, 2015.

Key Changes effective January 1, 2012 for ESL and Bilingual and Dual Language Certification
<p>ESL Certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All former ESL Endorsements have been renamed ESL Certificates. Educators will be issued the newly named ESL Certificates upon renewal or at first issuance.• All former ESL Content Endorsements have been renamed Secondary ESL Certificates. Educators will be issued the newly named Secondary ESL Certificates upon renewal or at first issuance.• Alignment of ESL Certificates and general education certificates: Educators must hold the appropriate grade-level general education certificate to attain an ESL certificate for that grade level (e.g. Must hold Elementary Education to attain an Elementary ESL Certificate).• Effective January 1, 2012, educators are not required to take two World Language courses to attain an ESL Certificate•
<p>ESL Specialist (current teacher –based certificate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educators who hold this certificate provide services in both self-contained and resource model programs in all grades (PK-12)• This certificate may be issued and renewed until January 2015. At which time it will no longer be issued as a new certificate but may be renewed by current ESL Specialist certificate holders
Key Changes effective January 1, 2012 for ESL and Bilingual and Dual Language Certification
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RIDE will work to redesign the Program Approval process to coordinate the Program Approval process and the development of ESL and Bilingual and Dual Language programs aligned to the TESOL standards• The certification application has been updated and consolidated. Effective January 1, 2012, most applicants will complete the new General Certification Application when applying for or renewing a certificate

Key Changes effective January 1, 2015 for ESL and Bilingual and Dual Language Certification

English as a Second Language Specialist/Consultant Certificate(new certificate)

- The ESL Specialist /Consultant certificate will be offered as of 1/1/2015. Holders of this certificate will provide services to the ELL student population and support the general education teacher regarding services and strategies for the ELLs
- The ESL Specialist/Consultant will also be eligible to manage ESL programs and provide services at the elementary, middle or secondary levels

ESL Specialist (current teacher –based certificate)

- The ESL Specialist Certificate will be issued and renewed until January 2015, at which time it will no longer be issued as a new certificate but will continued to be renewed by current ESL Specialist certificate holders