



**RHODE
ISLAND**

Certification Regulations Overview



Promulgated June 4, 2025

Context

Context

Locally and nationally, there continues to be teacher shortages and the educator workforce is changing. In efforts to provide flexibilities and expand pathways into the educator workforce in RI while maintaining quality professional expectations, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) engaged in revision process of the Certification Regulations.

RIDE conducted four (4) public hearings during the month of January 2025. The public hearings were advertised via the Secretary of State, RIDE's website, RIDE's field memo, and targeted emails. At these hearings, a summary document of the proposed regulations, as well as an infographic describing high-level updates, and the regulations in their entirety were made available to attendees. Attendees were able to provide oral testimony at a podium, or written testimony by scanning a QR code to complete an online form. The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved the proposed changes and RIDE engaged in the full regulatory process. The Certification Regulations were promulgated with an effective date of June 4, 2025.

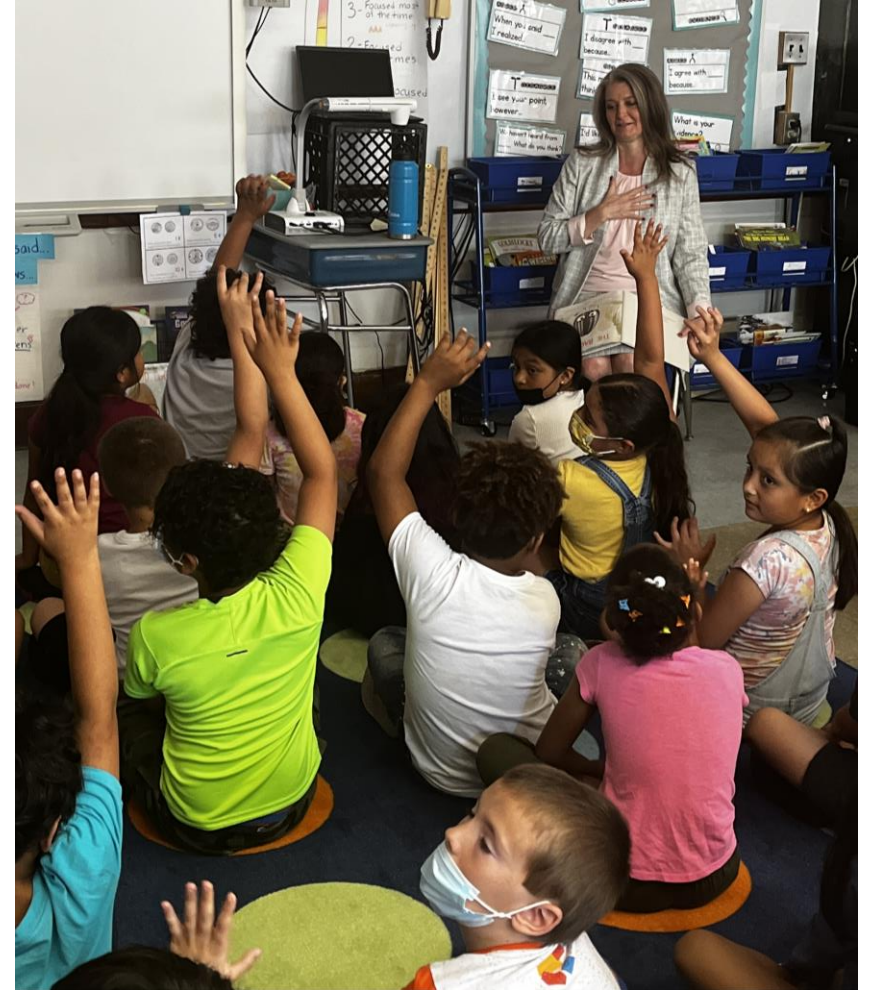
Purpose of Slide Deck

The purpose of this slide deck is to serve as a mode of communication to highlight key changes in the 2025 Certification Regulations. This slide deck is organized into three categories of changes: Expanding Pathways, Flexibilities, and Standards and Language. This slide deck is not a complete overview of every update to the regulations, but rather a high-level overview. Details can be found in the language of the regulations, policy and guidance documents, as well as the RIDE website. The final page of this slide deck includes links to the Rhode Island Department of the Secretary of State as well as the RIDE Educator Certification webpage.

Providing Flexibility and Expanding Pathways

Providing **flexibility** while maintaining quality professional expectations

Expanding pathways into the educator workforce and to reflect the student population it serves



Key Changes

Expanding Pathways

- New Certificates
- Additional Pathways for RI Certified Educators

Flexibilities

- Grade Span Changes
- Reinstatement
- Update for Alternate Route Programs
- Praxis Test Options – **Coming Soon!**

Standards and Language

- RI Professional Teacher Standards - Last update was 2013
- Language Updates and Technical Revisions

Expanding Pathways

New Certificate Types

New Certificate International Teacher

- Requested by the employing agency and issued for one year
- Allows qualified international educators to serve as teachers-of-record in RI public schools on a temporary basis

New Certificate Registered Apprenticeship

- Specific to educators enrolled in a **RIDE-approved** Registered Apprenticeship certificate programs
- Allows the apprentice to work in a role that requires certification while in a program

Expanding Pathways

New Certificate Areas

New Certificate

Health/Physical Education/Adaptive PE

- Combine 3 individual certificates into one
- Individual Health, Physical Education and Adaptive PE certificates still remain
- Align with educator preparation programs

New Certificate

District-Level Administrator Multilingual Learners

- Currently there are 4 pathways to demonstrate credentials in MLL regulations
- Offers an additional pathway which mirrors the District-Level Special Administrator – Special Education

Expanding Pathways

New Certificate Areas

New Certificate Coming Soon **Multilingual Learner (MLL)** **Integrated Content Teacher** **Extension**

- Allows educator to teach integrated English Language Development (ELD) within content
- English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) certification needed for ELD classes

Pursuant to the MLL Regulations, some teachers will need to meet proficiency requirements. There are four (4) ways to do so:

1. Professional Learning **Coming Soon**
2. MLL Endorsement
3. Full ESOL Certificate

OR

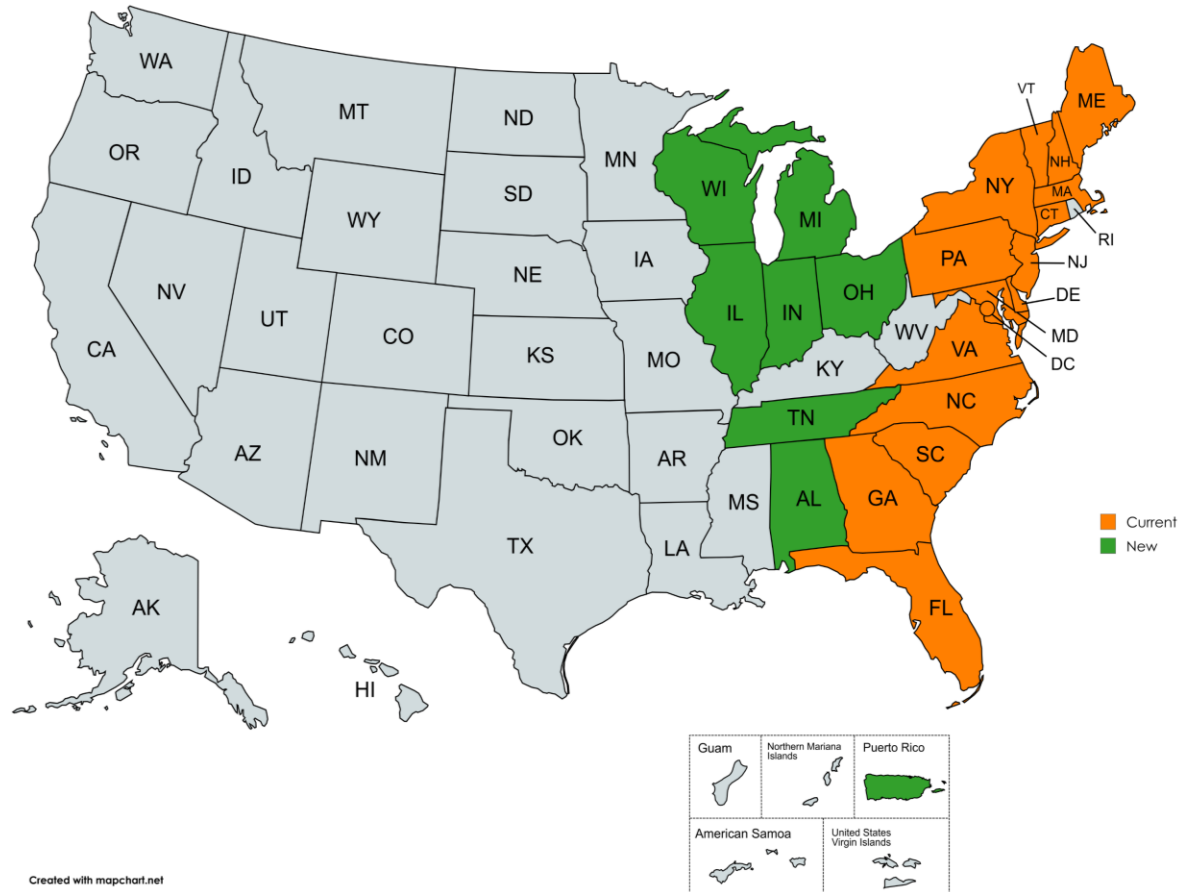
4. MLL Integrated Content Certificate **Coming Soon**

This certificate is not required by RIDE but does offer an additional certification for those who choose this pathway to demonstrate proficiency.

Expanding Pathways

Expanding Reciprocity

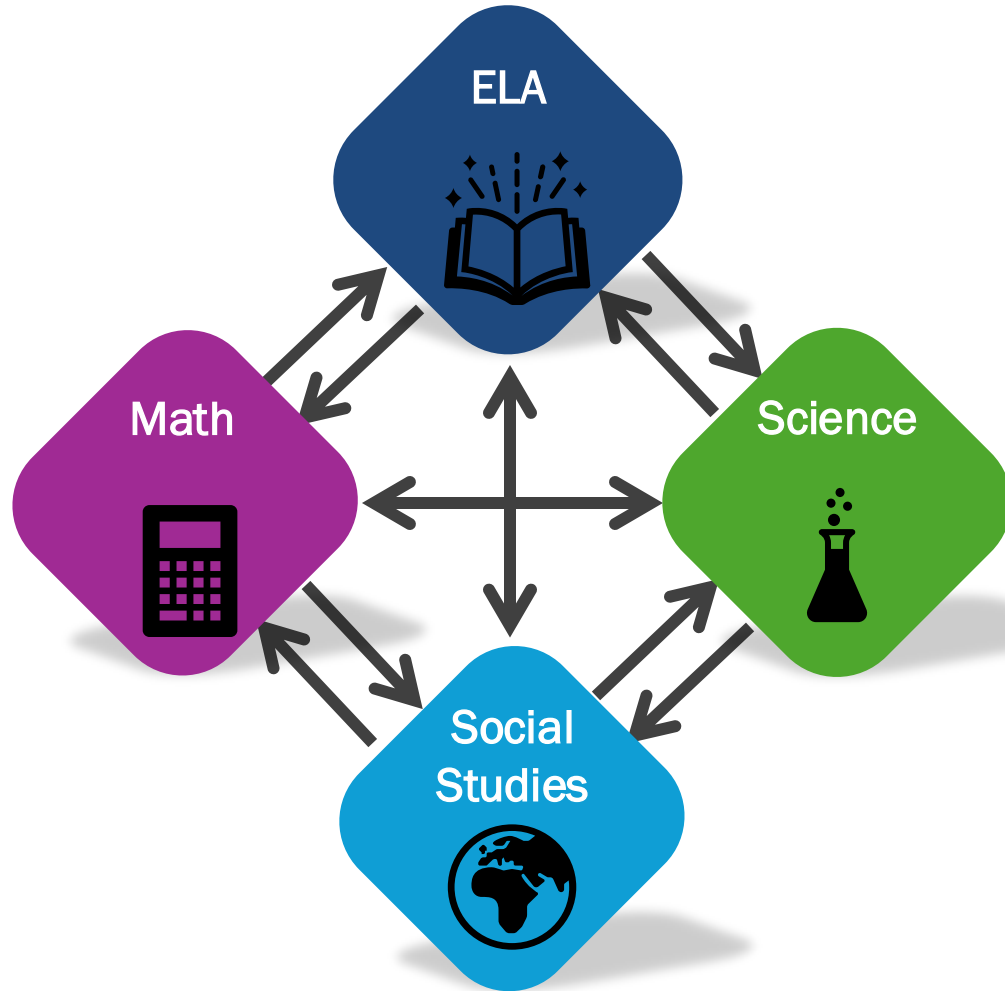
- Hold a valid like certificate in another state OR complete a state-approved educator preparation program in another state within the last 10 years
- Expansion of flexibility states from 16 to 23 states and the territory of Puerto Rico



Expanding Pathways

Adding a Certificate via Test-in Option

Additional Content Within a Secondary Grade Span

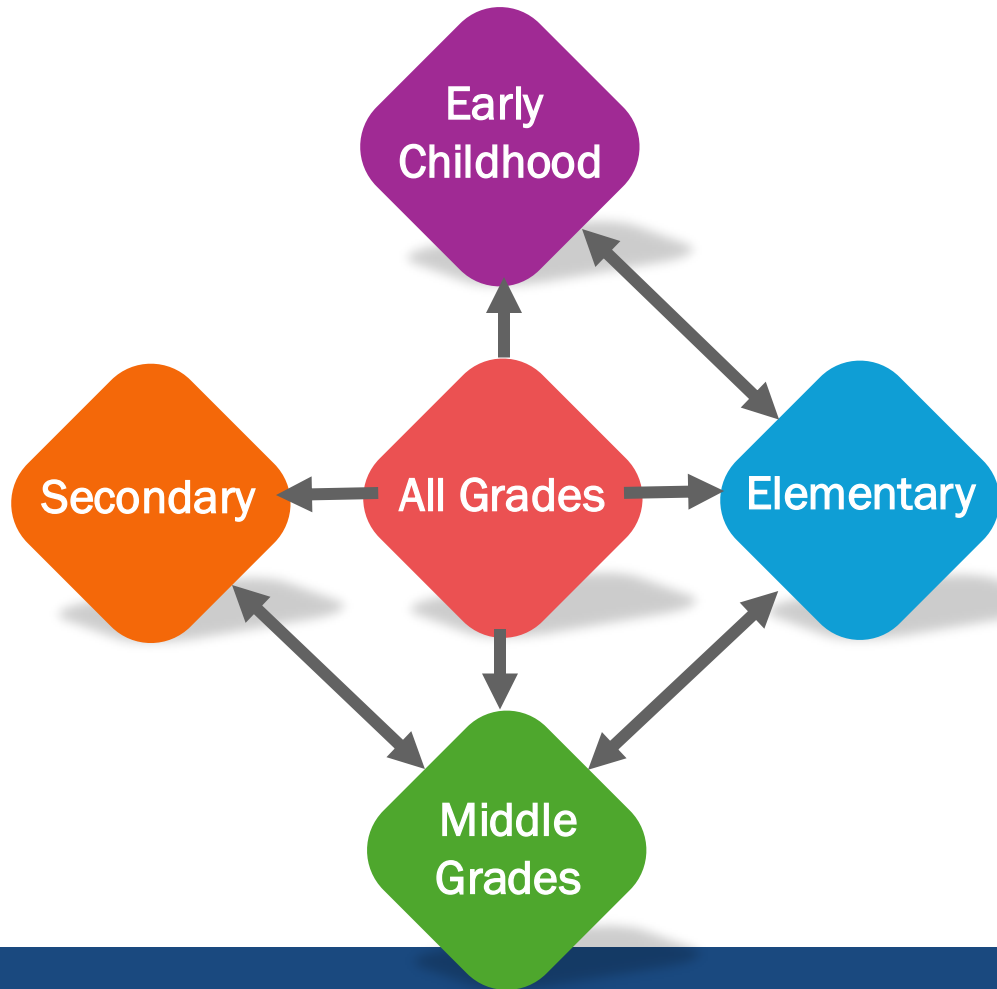


- Who is eligible?
 - Have 4 years RI public school teaching experience in the same grade span
 - Pass the current content test
- To which certificate areas does this apply?
 - Middle Grades
 - Secondary Grades
 - All Grades

Expanding Pathways

Adding a Certificate via Test-in Option

Additional Content Across Adjacent Grade Spans



- Who is eligible
 - Have 4 years **RI public school teaching experience** in the same grade span
 - Pass the current content test
- What certificate areas does this apply to
 - The graphic on the left indicates the grade spans across which the flexibility is available

Flexibilities

Grade Span Changes

- Early Childhood General Education

old	PK	K	1	2	
New	PK	K	1	2	3

- Early Childhood Special Education

old	Birth	PK	K	1	2	
New	Birth	PK	K	1	2	3

- Elementary Education

old		1	2	3	4	5	6
New	K	1	2	3	4	5	6

- Elementary Special Education

old		1	2	3	4	5	6		
New	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

- Secondary and Secondary Special Education

old		7	8	9	10	11	12
New	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Flexibilities

Middle or Secondary Level Expert Residency- First Issuance

Requirements for issuance

- Holds any bachelor's degree
- Pass the Praxis
- Met coursework or experience requirements specific to individual certification areas

Any bachelor's degree

Valid for 2 years

Valid for 2 years, renews 2 times for 2 years each time

Up to 2 renewals

Flexibilities

Reinstatement of Expired Certificates

Up to 3 years

1. Complete application form
2. Reinstatement Fee

3+ to 10 years

1. Complete application form
2. Reinstatement Fee
3. Right Test/Right Time
OR
3. Evidence of successful teaching experience since expiration date with valid out of state license

More than 10 years

1. Complete application form
2. Reinstatement Fee
3. Approved Program/
Credential Review with
Right Test/Right Time
OR
3. Evidence of successful teaching experience since expiration date with valid out of state license

Standards Updates

Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards

The Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS) are content standards that identify the professional knowledge and skills expected of all teachers.

The RIPTS are the foundation for the continuous improvement of the teaching profession in Rhode Island.

The updated standards have gone through feedback and revision cycles that have resulted in the most recent version found in the certification regulations promulgated on June 4, 2025.

Language Update

Fast -Track Principal Preliminary Certification Issuance

- Allows experienced educators to work as a building-level administrator while completing the requirements of the Fast-Track Program
- Issued for four (4) years
- Requires a letter of recommendation from the Superintendent of the LEA
- All certification requirements must be met to be eligible for a full PK-12 Building Level Administrator Certificate

Language Update

Fast -Track Principal

Progression from Preliminary to Full certificate

- A year-long internship within your school or district
- Lead a school- or district-wide initiative
- Finish any required coursework or tests not completed when the preliminary certificate was issued

and

Option 1

RIDE approved leadership development program if course work was completed outside of RI

OR

Option 2

Course in Program Evaluation including Data Analysis if all coursework is completed at an in-state RIDE-approved program.

Language Update

Progression towards 7 year Advanced Certificates

Initial
valid 3 years

Professional
valid 5 years

Advanced
valid 7 years

RIDE offers a progression of 3 levels of full certifications. The third level of full certification is issued to applicants who demonstrate accomplished practice and meet the criteria for an Advanced Educator Certificate. The advanced certificate is valid for 7 years.

Conditions for Issuance of an Advanced Certificate

- Hold a Professional Educator Certificate
- Completed 5 years working in a RI publicly funded educational setting under the Professional Educator Certificate and appropriate PLUs
- Achieves **one (1) aspirational benchmark** during the term of the certificate being renewed

Language Update

Financial Literacy

Beginning with the graduating class of 2024, financial literacy proficiency is a graduation requirement for high school students

Which certifications allow an educator to teach Financial Literacy?

- Secondary Business Education
- Secondary Math
- Secondary Social Studies
- Any secondary grades certificate with [RIDE approved professional learning in Financial Literacy](#)



Language Update

School Business Administrator

2 options for Expert Residency Certificate

Option 1

- Bachelor's degree in business administration, finance, or related area from a regionally accredited institution

Option 2

- Bachelor's degree in *any* area
- **3+ years** of experience as a business administrator with responsibilities in at least **2 of these areas:**
 - Financial resource management
 - Human resource management
 - Facility management
 - Property acquisition and management
 - Information management

Language Update Praxis Pilot

Coming Soon!

Regulatory Language

- By December 2026, one Praxis Pilot
- Council must review and approve the pilot

Plan is to present Praxis Bridge as the first pilot.

Additional Changes

- Updated educator conduct code
- Performance Review Pilot Program – Language to bring to council in the future for adoption
- Align undergraduate and graduate minimum admissions GPA to 2.75

- Update Emergency Certification/Expert Residency renewal expectations
- Emergency Certifications – Job posted for 14 days rather than 30
- CTE experience for RI certified educators

Additional Proposed Changes Maintained through Public Comment

- Endorsements
- Addition of School Nurse Teacher Preliminary Certificate
- World Language Teacher Certificate

- Eliminate Registered Nurse Certification due to legislation update
- Eliminate Instructional Leader Certificate
- Eliminate English as a Second Language Specialist/Consultant Certificate
- Eliminate Visiting Lecturer Certificate

Resources

Secretary of State – [Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in RI](#)

RIDE Website – Teachers and Administrators --> [Educator Certification](#)

RIDE Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements: [Financial Literacy Guidance for Implementation & Resources](#)