



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminister Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certificate

Overview

Effective January 1, 2015, Rhode Island School Districts will be able to request a Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certificate on behalf of an individual who has demonstrated distinct qualifications or a unique capacity to enhance or supplement educational programs in districts. The Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certificate is a Preliminary Certificate and not Full Rhode Island Certification¹. Distinct qualifications may include demonstrated expertise in a professional field, significant recognitions and awards in a professional field, or exceptional contributions to a professional field. Supplemental work may include enhancing school/district initiatives and/or programs that draw upon the unique capacity or distinct qualifications of the individual. Some examples of expertise may include a sculptor providing enhancement to the Art curriculum, someone in theatre enhancing a drama program, an engineer enhancing Math, a politician, etc. The Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certification allows an individual to provide instruction to students alongside a certified educator in a specific secondary grade or all grade certification area. An individual cannot request a Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certificate; only an employing agency may request the issuance of this certificate on behalf of an individual who has demonstrated distinct qualifications. Unlike some other Rhode Island preliminary certifications, the Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certification is not a route to full Rhode Island certification.

Requirements

Duration: The Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certificate is valid for one year.

Conditions for Issuance:

- The Visiting Lecturer Preliminary Certification is only issued to a specific individual at the request of an employing agency.
- The applicant demonstrates unique capacity or distinct qualifications that supplement school and district programs and would work alongside a certified educator.
- This certificate is available for Secondary Grades and All Grades certificate areas.
- The LEA has developed a program of support to assist the visiting lecturer with academic and classroom support and an assurance of regular observation, guidance, and evaluation of the performance of assigned duties using the RI State Approved Model.

This certificate is valid only in the requesting LEA/District.

Conditions for Renewal:

- The employing agency recommends renewal based on the individual's performance.
- The certificate can be renewed. Individuals who hold a preliminary Visiting Lecturer certificate and wish to pursue certification to serve as the teacher of record should review the [Expert Residency Preliminary Certificate Overview](#) and [Requirements](#).

NOTE: This preliminary certificate does not replace the requirement for a fully certified educator serving as teacher of record in the classroom.

¹Full Certification is a multi-year certificate that demonstrates the educator has met all Rhode Island requirements for certification and is included in the three-tier system of Rhode Island Educator certificates.