

2019 -- S 0866

LC002558

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS - TESTING  
REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW TEACHERS

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Quezada, Seveney, DiPalma, and Felag

Date Introduced: May 08, 2019

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-11 of the General Laws entitled "Certification of Teachers [See  
2 Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding  
3 thereto the following section:

4 **16-11-9. Testing requirements for new teachers.**

5 (a) The provisions of this section shall apply to all persons applying for his or her first  
6 educator certificate, on and after July 1, 2021.

7 (b) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall have authority to  
8 grant, upon application, initial educator certificates to persons who have satisfied the  
9 requirements for such certificates as established by the council on elementary and secondary  
10 education (the "council"). The council shall define the knowledge of subject matter and  
11 demonstration of competencies commensurate with attainment and renewal of such certificates.

12 (c) To be eligible for initial licensure and certification as an educator, the candidate shall:

13 (1) Hold a bachelor's degree in arts or sciences from an accredited college or university,  
14 with a major course in the arts or sciences appropriate to the instructional field;

15 (2) Pass a test established by the council, which shall include, but is not limited to, three

16 (3) parts:

17 (i) A writing section, which shall demonstrate that the candidate can communicate  
18 effectively with students, parents, and other educators;

1           (ii) A content section, which shall demonstrate that the candidate is knowledgeable in the  
2 subject matter of the certificate sought;

3           (iii) A pedagogical section, which shall demonstrate that the candidate understands  
4 theories and methods of instruction to support student academic and non-academic development,  
5 instructional strategies to promote student development of particular skills, how to adjust  
6 instruction techniques based on ongoing assessments, and strategies to select and use meaningful  
7 materials at appropriate levels of difficulty for all students; and

8           (3) Be of sound moral character.

9           (d) Candidates who complete the requirements in this section shall be issued initial  
10 educator certificates, which shall permit them to seek employment in teaching positions requiring  
11 instructional certification in schools within this state.

12           (e) The tests required by subsection (c) of this section shall, to the greatest extent  
13 possible, be modeled after the Massachusetts tests for educator licensure, or any similar test as  
14 may be adopted in Massachusetts.

15           (f) Teachers licensed subsequent to the successful passing of the test required by  
16 subsection (c) of this section shall still be subject to the graduated licensing requirements in place  
17 for all teachers including, but not limited to, professional licensure, as applicable to teachers  
18 licensed prior to July 1, 2021.

19           (g) The commissioner is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary  
20 to implement the provisions of this section.

21           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS - TESTING  
REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW TEACHERS

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- 1           This act would establish testing requirements for initial certification of new teachers on  
2 or after July 1, 2021.  
3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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