



## Summary of key certification changes adopted by the K-12 Council of the R.I. Board of Education on December 4, 2018.

- 1.) Professional Learning Units (PLU's)- Original Section 1.8.5.B - The requirement that 75% of the required PLU's be "sustained" has been eliminated, as has the language which put the financial responsibility solely on the backs of the individual.
- 2.) Teacher Certificate Areas- Section 1.9 - The proposal to allow a district to apply for a waiver permitting a teacher to teach up 20% in an area in which they are not certified has been modified. Prior to a teacher teaching out of certification there must be evidence of competence in the subject matter, mutual agreement between the teacher and the superintendent, and notification to the local union president prior to application to RIDE for the waiver. The language also states that waivers will not be granted if the commissioner believes a district is using this provision to avoid filling full-time positions.
- 3.) Registered School Nurse- Section 1.9.5.J - We are disappointed that the K-12 Council of the Board of Education are creating a new school nurse certification which we believe undermines the current School Nurse-Teacher Certification. The new certification allows BSRN's to work in schools provided they have no teaching requirements. Based on our input, the new certification proposal was modified to require professional development during the initial certification period for these individuals in the areas of "school-based nursing procedures, child and adolescent development, and support student learning needs".
- 4.) One Year Residency Requirement for Pre-Service Candidates- Section 1.6.C.2 - We were able to convince the Commissioner to add flexibility in the proposed requirement for a full year residency by including the term "or equivalent." This allows teacher ed programs to spread the clinical experience over the duration of the program and not just within a one- year timeframe. We expressed our outrage that alternate certification options such as TFA were exempt from this provision and emphasized the inequity this has created.
- 5.) Professional Learning Units- Section 1.8.2 - This is the most significant change we were able to obtain. The original proposal called for 40 hours of PD per year for all educators. We were able to reduce the number for educators currently holding Initial or Professional Certificates. The charts below will illustrate the phase in schedule for the next ten years. For those holding Professional Certs the first five years will be 15 hours per year expanding to 20 hours per year in year six. For teachers issued Initial certificates beginning in 2019 the phase in will be 20 hours per year beginning in 2020 expanding to 30 hours by 2025. The Initial cert is for three years therefore everyone currently working under an Initial be required to perform an average of twenty hours per year.

Also significant is the expansion to include activities which may be imbedded in school professional responsibilities such as "data analysis meetings, student work review teams, curriculum intervention teams, induction and mentoring activities, and structured professional learning communities."

**1.8.2.A.3.c** Beginning in 2020, applicants will submit the professional learning units outlined in the chart below.

**Initial Certificate**

| Expiration Year | Formula (# of years x units.) | Total Units |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 2020            | 1X20                          | 20          |
| 2021            | 2X20                          | 40          |
| 2022            | 3X25                          | 75          |
| 2023            | 3X25                          | 75          |
| 2024            | 3X25                          | 75          |
| 2025            | 3X30                          | 90          |

**1.8.3.A.3.c** Professional Educator Certificate. Individuals who hold an Initial Certificate that expires between 2020 and 2025 and are issued a Professional Certificate between 2020 and 2025 will submit the professional learning units outlined in the chart below.

**Professional Certificate**

| Expiration Year | Formula (# of years x units.) | Total Units Over Five Years |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2025            | 5X20                          | 100                         |
| 2026            | 5X20                          | 100                         |
| 2027            | 5X20                          | 100                         |
| 2028            | 5X20                          | 100                         |
| 2029            | 5X20                          | 100                         |
| 2030            | 5X20                          | 100                         |

**1.8.3.A.3.d** Professional Educator/Advanced Certificate. Individuals who already hold a Professional Certificate or Advanced Certificate as of December 31, 2019 will submit the professional learning units outlined in the chart below.

**Professional Certificate**

| Expiration Year | Formula (# of years x units.) | Total Units over five years |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2020            | 1X15                          | 15                          |
| 2021            | 2X15                          | 30                          |
| 2022            | 3X15                          | 45                          |
| 2023            | 4x15                          | 60                          |
| 2024            | 5X15                          | 75                          |
| 2025            | 5X15                          | 75                          |
| 2026            | 4X15; 1X20                    | 80                          |
| 2027            | 3X15; 2X20                    | 85                          |
| 2028            | 2X15; 3X20                    | 90                          |
| 2029            | 1X15; 4X20                    | 95                          |
| 2030            | 5X20                          | 100                         |

We are also proud to say that we clarified with the department that any teacher who holds a life certification will only be responsible professional development which is required by their local collective bargaining agreement.