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## Educator Preparation Admissions Guidance

**Effective:** August 2026

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### Purpose

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) recognizes that successful educators come from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds. Consistent with the [Rhode Island Standards for Educator Preparation](#), educator preparation providers (EPPs) should use multiple measures to evaluate applicants and make admissions decisions that identify candidates with the potential to become effective educators.

These admissions criteria establish minimum statewide expectations while allowing providers the flexibility to implement admissions processes that align with their missions, program designs, and candidate populations. Providers are expected to monitor candidate progress throughout preparation and provide appropriate academic and professional supports to ensure candidate success.

### Guiding Principles

- Admissions decisions should be informed by multiple measures of candidate readiness, including academic performance, professional dispositions, prior experiences, and demonstrated potential.
- Academic assessments should serve as diagnostic tools that help identify areas where candidates may benefit from additional support.
- Providers are responsible for implementing systems of academic and advising supports that promote candidate success.
- Admissions policies should expand access to the educator workforce while maintaining high expectations for candidate performance.
- Rhode Island recognizes multiple pathways into educator preparation, including the successful completion of RIDE approved Education-focused Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

### Admissions Pathways

| Undergraduate                                                                                                                           | Education-focused CTE                                                                                                                                                                              | Post-Baccalaureate                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2.75 cumulative GPA</li><li>• Diagnostic assessment</li><li>• Support plan, if needed</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Direct admission</li><li>• Approved CTE completion</li><li>• Work-based learning</li><li>• Credential</li><li>• Early Checkpoint after admission</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2.75 undergraduate GPA</li></ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2.75 graduate GPA (9 credits)</li></ul> |



## Undergraduate Admissions Requirements

### *Grade Point Average*

Individual undergraduate candidates should have a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of **2.75** at the time of admission. Providers may admit candidates below this threshold if they implement a RIDE-approved, documented plan to monitor and support candidate success.

### *Admissions Assessment*

Candidates should complete the SAT®, ACT®, Praxis® Core, or another RIDE-approved assessment prior to admission. Assessment results should inform advising and academic supports rather than serve as the sole admissions criterion.

**Table 1: College and Career Readiness Benchmarks**

| SAT®                             |      | ACT®    |         |      | Praxis® Core   |                |             |
|----------------------------------|------|---------|---------|------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Evidence-based Reading & Writing | Math | English | Reading | Math | Reading (5713) | Writing (5723) | Math (5733) |
| 480                              | 530  | 18      | 22      | 22   | 168            | 165            | 170         |

### *Examples of supports include:*

- Additional coursework
- Academic coaching or advising
- Tutoring or writing support
- Regular progress monitoring
- Referrals to campus academic support services

### *Conditional Acceptance*

Programs may conditionally admit candidates who have a cumulative GPA ranging between 2.5 and 2.74. Conditionally accepted candidates should be provided with a plan to include additional supports, requirements, and checkpoints. Programs wishing to offer conditional acceptance must have a plan approved by RIDE.

## Direct Admissions Pathways for Education-focused CTE Completers

Graduates of a **RIDE-approved Education-focused Career and Technical Education (CTE) program** are eligible for direct admission into a Rhode Island educator preparation program, if EPP policy allows, when they have successfully completed the approved program requirements.

### *Demonstration of successful completion should include evidence of:*

- Successful completion of three nonduplicative courses, as required by the CTE program;
- Successful completion of the required 80 hours of work-based learning experiences;
- Achievement of required industry-recognized credentials, including First Aid, CPR, and AED; **and**
- Passing score on the RI ParaPathway exam **or** attainment of RIELDS Guidance Principles Certificate and RIELDS 9 Domain Certificate.

### *Required Checkpoint*

Following admission, candidates admitted directly through a RIDE-approved Education-focused CTE program shall participate in a required checkpoint early in the program (e.g., late Freshman or early Sophomore year). At



this checkpoint, the EPP shall review the candidate's cumulative GPA and available admissions assessment data (SAT®, ACT®, Praxis® Core, or another RIDE-approved assessment, if available) to evaluate the candidate's academic program and readiness for continued success in the program.

If the review identifies areas of concern, the EPP shall develop and implement a documented support plan that outlines targeted academic and/or advising supports, such as tutoring, academic coaching, additional coursework, or regular progress monitoring. The provider shall monitor the candidate's progress and adjust supports as appropriate to promote successful completion of the preparation program.

## Post-Baccalaureate Admissions Requirements

Candidates entering post-baccalaureate educator preparation programs, including administrator and support professional programs, should have a minimum of 2.75 undergraduate GPA or a minimum of 2.75 graduate GPA based on at least 9 graduate credits. Providers may admit candidates below these thresholds if they implement a RIDE-approved, documented plan to monitor and support candidate success.

### *Conditional Acceptance*

Programs may conditionally admit candidates who have a cumulative GPA ranging between 2.5 and 2.74.

Conditionally accepted candidates should be provided with a plan to include additional supports, requirements, and checkpoints. Programs wishing to offer conditional acceptance must have a plan approved by RIDE.