

REFERENCE TITLE: **schools; state seal of biliteracy**

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-second Legislature
Second Regular Session
2016

SB 1239

Introduced by

Senators Begay, Bradley, Dalessandro, Miranda, Pancrazi, Yee;
Representatives Boyer, Carter, Rios; Senators Allen S, Barto, Burges,
Farnsworth D, Griffin, Lesko, Shooter, Smith, Worsley; Representatives
Benally, Borrelli, Gowan, Lawrence, Mitchell, Norgaard

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-258; RELATING TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 2, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 15-258, to read:

4 15-258. State seal of biliteracy program; requirements;
5 diploma; program termination

6 A. IF SUFFICIENT FUNDING IS PROVIDED FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE
7 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL ESTABLISH A STATE SEAL OF
8 BILITERACY PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE FROM A SCHOOL OPERATED
9 BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A CHARTER SCHOOL LOCATED IN THIS STATE AND WHO HAVE
10 ATTAINED A HIGH LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY IN ONE OR MORE LANGUAGES IN ADDITION TO
11 ENGLISH.

12 B. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL:

13 1. CREATE A STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY THAT SHALL BE AFFIXED TO THE
14 DIPLOMA AND NOTED ON THE TRANSCRIPT OF A STUDENT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE
15 STUDENT HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

16 2. DELIVER THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY TO EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
17 OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM.

18 C. ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATE
19 IN THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM BY NOTIFYING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF
20 PUBLIC INSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S INTENT TO
21 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

22 D. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OR CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING
23 BODY THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM SHALL:

24 1. IDENTIFY THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE AWARDED
25 THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY.

26 2. AFFIX THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY TO THE DIPLOMA AND NOTE THE
27 RECEIPT OF THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY ON THE TRANSCRIPT OF EACH STUDENT WHO
28 MEETS THOSE REQUIREMENTS.

29 E. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT
30 OF EDUCATION, SHALL ADOPT A LIST OF ASSESSMENTS USING RESEARCHED-BASED
31 METHODOLOGY TO DETERMINE A STUDENT'S PROFICIENCY IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN
32 ENGLISH AND MAY ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS
33 SECTION.

34 F. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE STATE
35 SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL AWARD A
36 STUDENT, ON GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL, A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA WITH A STATE
37 SEAL OF BILITERACY IF THE STUDENT MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

38 1. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES ALL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS REQUIREMENTS FOR
39 GRADUATION WITH AN OVERALL GRADE POINT AVERAGE IN THOSE CLASSES OF 2.0 OR
40 HIGHER ON A 4.0 SCALE, OR THE EQUIVALENT.

41 2. PASSES THE END-OF-COURSE EXAMINATIONS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
42 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-755.

43 3. DEMONSTRATES PROFICIENCY IN ONE OR MORE LANGUAGES OTHER THAN
44 ENGLISH BY MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION E OF THIS
45 SECTION.

1 4. IF THE STUDENT HAS A PRIMARY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, OBTAINS A
2 SCORE OF PROFICIENT OR HIGHER BASED ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
3 STANDARDS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-756.

4 G. THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION ENDS ON JULY 1,
5 2026 PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-3102.

6 Sec. 2. Emergency

7 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
8 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
9 law.