

REFERENCE TITLE: literacy endorsement; noncertificated teachers

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HB 2026

Introduced by
Representative Udall

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-501.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL EMPLOYEES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-501.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 15-501.01. Requirements for teachers; teaching certificates;
5 rules; reciprocity; placement

6 A. Notwithstanding any other law, all teachers who are certificated
7 pursuant to this section must have a baccalaureate degree and a valid
8 fingerprint clearance card.

9 B. The state board of education shall adopt rules for the issuance
10 of the following types of certificates for teachers to reflect the source
11 of the training the teacher obtains:

12 1. Standard teaching certificate.

13 2. Alternative teaching certificate for persons who obtain training
14 pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 1 of this section.

15 3. Subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate for persons
16 who obtain training pursuant to subsection C, paragraph ~~8~~ 9 of this
17 section.

18 4. Classroom-based standard teaching certificate for persons who
19 obtain training from a school district or charter school.

20 5. Career and technical education teaching certificate.

21 C. The state board of education shall adopt rules to carry out the
22 purposes of this section. The rules:

23 1. Shall provide for a variety of alternative teacher and
24 administrator preparation programs that allow for variations in program
25 sequence and design to apply for program approval. The state board shall
26 adopt rules pursuant to this paragraph designed to allow for a variety of
27 formats and shall not require a prescribed answer or design from the
28 program provider in order to obtain approval from the state board. Any
29 rules adopted by the state board pursuant to this paragraph shall be
30 substantially different from the rules adopted for the approval of
31 traditional preparation programs and may not unnecessarily restrict a
32 variety of alternative preparation programs from operating and providing
33 instruction in this state. The state board shall evaluate each program
34 provider based on the program's ability to prepare teachers and
35 administrators and to recruit teachers and administrators with a variety
36 of experiences and talents. The state board shall allow universities
37 under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents, community colleges
38 in this state, private postsecondary institutions licensed by this state,
39 school districts, charter schools, professional organizations, nonprofit
40 organizations and private entities to apply for program approval and shall
41 create application procedures and certification criteria that are
42 substantially less restrictive than those for traditional preparation
43 programs. At the completion of an alternative preparation program,
44 graduates shall:

1 (a) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited postsecondary
2 education institution.

3 (b) If applicable, demonstrate professional knowledge and subject
4 knowledge proficiency pursuant to section 15-533.

5 (c) Obtain a valid fingerprint clearance card pursuant to section
6 15-534.

7 (d) If applicable, complete training in structured English
8 immersion as prescribed by the state board pursuant to section 15-756.09.

9 (e) If applicable, complete training in research-based systematic
10 phonics instruction as prescribed in paragraph 2 of this subsection.

11 (f) Demonstrate the required proficiency in the Constitutions of
12 the United States and Arizona as prescribed in section 15-532.

13 2. Shall require that, within three years after a certificate for
14 elementary education or early childhood education is issued, the
15 certificate holder complete, from a public or private provider, at least
16 forty-five classroom hours or three college-level credit hours, or the
17 equivalent, in both research-based:

18 (a) Science of reading instruction, including systematic phonics
19 instruction.

20 (b) Reading instruction, including training on assessments,
21 instructional practices and interventions to improve student reading
22 proficiency. Beginning July 1, 2021, instruction provided pursuant to
23 this subdivision must meet the requirements for dyslexia training
24 prescribed in section 15-219.

25 3. Beginning August 1, 2025, shall establish a literacy endorsement
26 as a requirement for all certificated teachers who provide literacy
27 instruction in kindergarten programs or in any of grades one through ~~grade~~
28 five as determined by the board. The rules shall require that a
29 certificated teacher who receives a certificate after August 1, 2025 and
30 who provides literacy instruction in kindergarten programs or in any of
31 grades one through ~~grade~~ five must obtain a literacy endorsement within
32 three years after the teacher's certificate is issued. The rules shall
33 require that a certificated teacher who received a certificate before
34 August 1, 2025 and who provides literacy instruction in kindergarten
35 programs or in any of grades one through ~~grade~~ five must obtain a literacy
36 endorsement on or before August 1, 2028. The literacy endorsement shall
37 require the teacher to complete evidence-based science of reading training
38 or coursework as determined by the board and to pass a literacy
39 instruction assessment to show that the teacher is capable of doing all of
40 the following:

41 (a) Effectively teaching foundational reading skills, phonemic
42 awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

43 (b) Implementing reading instruction using high-quality
44 instructional materials.

1 (c) Providing effective instruction and interventions for students
2 with reading deficiencies, including students with characteristics of
3 dyslexia.

4 4. BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2026, SHALL ESTABLISH AN OPTIONAL LITERACY
5 ENDORSEMENT, OR THE EQUIVALENT, FOR ALL NONCERTIFICATED TEACHERS WHO
6 PROVIDE LITERACY INSTRUCTION IN KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS OR IN ANY OF GRADES
7 ONE THROUGH FIVE AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE
8 LITERACY ENDORSEMENT, OR THE EQUIVALENT, MAY BE THE SAME LITERACY
9 ENDORSEMENT ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SUBSECTION, BUT THE
10 STATE BOARD MAY NOT REQUIRE NONCERTIFICATED TEACHERS TO OBTAIN A LITERACY
11 ENDORSEMENT.

12 ~~4.~~ 5. Beginning August 1, 2022, shall require all approved
13 educator preparation programs in elementary education and early childhood
14 education to require the courses that are necessary to obtain a literacy
15 endorsement pursuant to paragraph 3 of this subsection.

16 ~~5.~~ 6. Shall establish a process to allow a local education agency,
17 at the request of a teacher, to verify to the department of education that
18 the teacher possesses the instructional knowledge and skills prescribed in
19 paragraph 3 of this subsection, demonstrated through classroom
20 observations and student achievement data across subgroups using
21 evidence-based measures. A certificated teacher who has had a local
22 education agency verify the teacher's knowledge and skills in the science
23 of reading pursuant to this paragraph is not required to complete the
24 coursework, training or assessment requirements prescribed in paragraph 3
25 of this subsection to obtain the literacy endorsement.

26 ~~6.~~ 7. Shall not require a teacher to obtain a master's degree or
27 to take any additional graduate courses as a condition of certification or
28 recertification.

29 ~~7.~~ 8. Shall allow but shall not require the superintendent of a
30 school district to obtain certification from the state board of education.

31 ~~8.~~ 9. Shall provide for the issuance of a subject-matter expert
32 standard teaching certificate to persons who have expertise in a content
33 area or subject matter. Persons who are certified pursuant to this
34 paragraph shall complete training, if applicable, in structured English
35 immersion as prescribed by the state board pursuant to section 15-756.09.
36 Persons who are certified pursuant to this paragraph are exempt from the
37 subject knowledge proficiency requirements prescribed in section 15-533
38 and from the proficiency requirements prescribed in section 15-532 on the
39 Constitutions of the United States and Arizona. Persons who are subject
40 to subdivision (a) of this paragraph are also exempt from the professional
41 knowledge proficiency requirements pursuant to section 15-533. A person
42 who obtains a subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate pursuant
43 to this paragraph may provide instruction in the person's field of
44 expertise in grades six through twelve at any public school in this state.
45 Issuance of the subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate may

1 not be conditioned on the person's employment with a local education
 2 agency. A person who meets the requirements of this paragraph shall be
 3 issued a subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate without
 4 having to demonstrate professional knowledge proficiency pursuant to
 5 section 15-533, except that the person shall have at least two years to
 6 demonstrate professional knowledge proficiency pursuant to section 15-533.
 7 School districts shall evaluate and provide support pursuant to section
 8 15-537 to teachers who are certified pursuant to this paragraph. If a
 9 person fails to meet the professional knowledge requirements of this
 10 section within two years, the department of education or state board of
 11 education may temporarily suspend the subject-matter expert standard
 12 teaching certificate. A certificate that is temporarily suspended
 13 pursuant to this paragraph is not considered a disciplinary action, and a
 14 person shall be allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining
 15 time of the subject-matter expert standard teaching certification. This
 16 paragraph does not require a person who has obtained another type of
 17 teaching certificate from the state board to obtain a subject-matter
 18 expert standard teaching certificate pursuant to this paragraph in order
 19 to provide instruction in grades six through twelve. A person is eligible
 20 for a subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate pursuant to this
 21 paragraph if the person has a baccalaureate degree and meets any of the
 22 following requirements:

23 (a) Has taught courses relevant to a content area or subject matter
 24 for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years
 25 at one or more regionally or nationally accredited public or private
 26 postsecondary institutions. A person demonstrates compliance with this
 27 requirement by providing the state board with written proof of employment
 28 for specific durations from one or more qualifying postsecondary
 29 institutions.

30 (b) Has either a baccalaureate degree, a master's degree or a
 31 doctoral degree in a specific subject area that is relevant to a content
 32 area or subject matter taught in public schools.

33 (c) Demonstrates expertise through relevant work experience of at
 34 least five years in a field that is relevant to a content area or subject
 35 matter taught in public schools. A person demonstrates compliance with
 36 this requirement by providing the state board with written proof of
 37 employment.

38 ~~9.~~ 10. Notwithstanding section 15-533, shall exempt persons
 39 applying for a secondary education certificate from the subject knowledge
 40 portion of the proficiency examination if the state board determines that
 41 the person has work experience in science, technology, engineering or
 42 mathematics and can demonstrate adequate knowledge of a particular subject
 43 through a postsecondary education degree or twenty-four credit hours of
 44 relevant coursework.

1 ~~10.~~ 11. Shall allow for a certificate issued to a person pursuant
2 to subsection B, paragraph 1, 3, 4 or 5 of this section or section 15-203
3 or 15-782.01, as applicable, to be both issued and renewed for at least
4 twelve years and may not require more than fifteen hours of continuing
5 education credits each year in order to renew that certificate pursuant to
6 this paragraph.

7 ~~11.~~ 12. Shall allow for a certificate issued to a person pursuant
8 to subsection B of this section or section 15-132, 15-203 or 15-782.01, as
9 applicable, and any endorsement or approved area related to that
10 certificate, to be renewed at least two years but not more than ten years
11 after that certificate expires without any other requirements adopted by
12 the state board of education or the department of education if the person
13 is in good standing, has at least ten years of verified full-time
14 experience in this state in the area in which the person is seeking
15 renewed certification and possesses a valid fingerprint clearance card
16 issued pursuant to section 15-534. A certificate renewed pursuant to this
17 paragraph shall be identical to the expired certificate.

18 D. The rules for certification reciprocity shall include a
19 requirement that the applicant possess a comparable valid certification
20 from another state and be in good standing with that other state. An
21 applicant who possesses a valid certification from another state and a
22 fingerprint clearance card pursuant to section 15-534 and who is in good
23 standing with that other state shall be issued a comparable standard
24 certificate or a comparable certificate issued pursuant to section 15-132,
25 15-203 or 15-782.01, as applicable, without any other requirements from
26 the state board of education or the department of education. A person who
27 is issued a certificate pursuant to this subsection is not required to
28 meet any requirement prescribed in section 15-533.

29 E. Placement decisions of teaching intern certificate holders
30 issued pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 1 of this section and section
31 15-552 shall be based on agreements between the teacher preparation
32 provider, the provider's partner organizations and the local education
33 agency. The practices of the department of education and the rules and
34 policies of the state board of education may not restrict placement of
35 teaching intern certification holders based on local education agency
36 instructional models and may only consider the academic quality of the
37 school, the effectiveness of the teaching intern certification holder's
38 on-site mentor and the opportunity for a wide variety of schools and
39 school models to access teaching intern certification holders.

40 F. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, the following
41 persons are not required to have a baccalaureate degree:

42 1. A teacher who is otherwise exempt by law from obtaining a
43 baccalaureate degree and who provides instruction in STEM or career and
44 technical education pursuant to section 15-782.01.

- 1 2. A person who obtains any of the following:
- 2 (a) A Native American language certificate.
- 3 (b) A student teaching intern certificate.
- 4 (c) A junior reserve officer training corps certificate.
- 5 (d) An athletic coaching certificate.
- 6 (e) An emergency substitute certificate.