

REFERENCE TITLE: **teacher certification; leadership preparation programs**

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-fifth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2022

## **SB 1159**

Introduced by  
Senators Gray: Barto, Borrelli, Boyer, Gowan, Kerr, Leach, Livingston,  
Mesnard, Petersen; Representatives Bolick, Kavanagh, Payne, Toma,  
Weninger, Wilmeth

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-501, 15-501.01, 15-533 AND 15-553, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-554; 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, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 15-501. Definitions

5 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Administrator" means any school district administrator except a  
7 school principal who devotes at least fifty percent of the principal's  
8 time to classroom teaching.

9 2. "Certificated teacher" means a person who holds a certificate  
10 from the state board of education to work in the schools of this state and  
11 who is employed under contract in a school district in a position that  
12 requires certification except a psychologist or an administrator who  
13 devotes at least fifty percent of the person's time to classroom teaching.

14 3. "Full-time" means to be employed for a full school day, or its  
15 equivalent, or for a full class load, or its equivalent, as determined by  
16 the governing board.

17 4. "Governing board" means the governing board of a school district  
18 or a county school superintendent in the case of accommodation schools  
19 located in such a county.

20 5. "Inadequacy of classroom performance" means the definition of  
21 inadequacy classroom performance adopted by the governing board pursuant  
22 to section 15-538.

23 6. "Major portion of a school year" means full-time employment for  
24 fifty-one percent of the school days during which school is in session,  
25 except that a certificated teacher is not deemed to have completed the  
26 major portion of the third school year of three consecutive years of  
27 employment until the end of the third school year.

28 7. "Performance classifications" means the performance  
29 classifications adopted by the governing board.

30 8. "Qualified evaluator" means a school principal or other person  
31 who is trained to evaluate teachers and who is designated by the governing  
32 board to evaluate the school district's certificated teachers.

33 9. "STANDARD TEACHING CERTIFICATE" MEANS ANY TEACHING CERTIFICATE  
34 THAT IS ISSUED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO AN INDIVIDUAL,  
35 REGARDLESS OF THE PATHWAY OR SOURCE OF TRAINING OBTAINED BY THE  
36 INDIVIDUAL.

37 ~~9.~~ 10. "Superintendent" means the superintendent of schools of a  
38 school district.

39 ~~10.~~ 11. "Suspension without pay" means suspension without pay for  
40 a period of time not to exceed ten school days.

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

3           15-501.01. Requirements for teachers; teaching certificates;  
4                                       rules; reciprocity; placement; posting

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

8           B. The state board of education shall adopt rules for the issuance  
9 of ~~the following types of certificates~~ A CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
10 TEACHING CERTIFICATE AND A STANDARD TEACHING CERTIFICATE for teachers ~~to~~  
11 ~~reflect the source of the training the teacher obtains~~ THAT USE THE  
12 FOLLOWING PATHWAYS:

13           ~~1. Standard teaching certificate.~~

14           1. TRADITIONAL TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

15           2. Alternative ~~teaching certificate for persons who obtain training~~  
16 TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 1 of this  
17 section.

18           3. Subject-matter ~~expert standard teaching certificate for persons~~  
19 DESIGNATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEEMED A SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERT AND who  
20 obtain training pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 8 of this section.

21           4. Classroom-based ~~standard teaching certificate~~ PREPARATION  
22 PROGRAMS for ~~persons~~ INDIVIDUALS who obtain training from a school  
23 district or charter school.

24           ~~5. Career and technical education teaching certificate.~~

25           5. ANY OTHER TRAINING OR PREPARATION PATHWAY ADOPTED BY THE STATE  
26 BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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

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

1 organizations and private entities to apply for program approval and shall  
2 create application procedures and certification criteria that are  
3 substantially less restrictive than those for traditional preparation  
4 programs. At the completion of an alternative preparation program,  
5 graduates shall:

6 (a) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited postsecondary  
7 education institution.

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

10 (c) Obtain a valid fingerprint clearance card pursuant to section  
11 15-534.

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

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

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

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

23 (a) Science of reading instruction, including systematic phonics  
24 instruction.

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

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

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

3 (b) Implementing reading instruction using high-quality  
4 instructional materials.

5 (c) Providing effective instruction and interventions for students  
6 with reading deficiencies, including students with characteristics of  
7 dyslexia.

8 4. Beginning August 1, 2022, shall require all approved educator  
9 preparation programs in elementary education and early childhood education  
10 to require the courses that are necessary to obtain a literacy endorsement  
11 pursuant to paragraph 3 of this subsection.

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

22 6. Shall not require a teacher to obtain a master's degree or to  
23 take any additional graduate courses as a condition of certification or  
24 recertification.

25 7. Shall allow but shall not require the superintendent of a school  
26 district to obtain certification from the state board of education.

27 8. Shall provide for the issuance of a ~~subject-matter expert~~  
28 standard teaching certificate to persons who have expertise in a content  
29 area or A subject matter. Persons who are certified pursuant to this  
30 paragraph shall complete training, if applicable, in structured English  
31 immersion as prescribed by the state board pursuant to section 15-756.09.  
32 Persons who are certified pursuant to this paragraph are exempt from the  
33 subject knowledge proficiency requirements prescribed in section 15-533  
34 and from the proficiency requirements prescribed in section 15-532 on the  
35 Constitutions of the United States and Arizona. Persons who are subject  
36 to subdivision (a) of this paragraph are also exempt from the professional  
37 knowledge proficiency requirements pursuant to section 15-533. A person  
38 who obtains a ~~subject-matter expert~~ standard teaching certificate pursuant  
39 to this paragraph may provide instruction in the person's field of  
40 expertise in KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND grades ~~six~~ ONE through twelve at  
41 any public school in this state. Issuance of the ~~subject-matter expert~~  
42 standard teaching certificate PURSUANT TO THIS PATHWAY may not be  
43 conditioned on the person's employment with a local education agency. A  
44 person who meets the requirements of this paragraph shall be issued a  
45 ~~subject-matter expert~~ standard teaching certificate without having to

1 demonstrate professional knowledge proficiency pursuant to section 15-533,  
2 except that the person shall have at least two years to demonstrate  
3 professional knowledge proficiency pursuant to section 15-533. School  
4 districts shall evaluate and provide support pursuant to section 15-537 to  
5 teachers who are certified pursuant to this paragraph. If a person fails  
6 to meet the professional knowledge requirements of this section within two  
7 years, the department of education or state board of education may  
8 temporarily suspend the ~~subject-matter expert~~ standard teaching  
9 certificate. A certificate that is temporarily suspended pursuant to this  
10 paragraph is not considered a disciplinary action, and a person shall be  
11 allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining time of the  
12 ~~subject-matter expert~~ standard teaching certification. This paragraph  
13 does not require a person who has obtained another type of teaching  
14 certificate from the state board to obtain a ~~subject-matter expert~~  
15 standard teaching certificate pursuant to this paragraph in order to  
16 provide instruction ~~in grades six through twelve~~. A person is eligible  
17 for a ~~subject-matter expert~~ standard teaching certificate pursuant to this  
18 paragraph if the person has a baccalaureate degree and meets any of the  
19 following requirements:

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

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

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

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

42 10. Shall allow for a certificate issued to a person pursuant to  
43 subsection B, paragraph 1, 3, 4 or 5 of this section or section 15-203 or  
44 15-782.01, as applicable, to be both issued and renewed for at least  
45 twelve years and may not require more than fifteen hours of continuing

1 education credits each year in order to renew that certificate pursuant to  
2 this paragraph.

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

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

25 E. Placement decisions of teaching intern certificate holders  
26 issued pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 1 of this section and section  
27 15-552 shall be based on agreements between the teacher preparation  
28 provider, the provider's partner organizations and the local education  
29 agency. The practices of the department of education and the rules and  
30 policies of the state board of education may not restrict placement of  
31 teaching intern certification holders based on local education agency  
32 instructional models and may only consider the academic quality of the  
33 school, the effectiveness of the teaching intern certification holder's  
34 on-site mentor and the opportunity for a wide variety of schools and  
35 school models to access teaching intern certification holders.

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

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

41 2. A person who obtains any of the following:

42 (a) A Native American language certificate.

43 (b) A student teaching intern certificate.

44 (c) A junior reserve officer training corps certificate.

45 (d) An athletic coaching certificate.

1 (e) An emergency substitute certificate.

2 (f) A SUBSTITUTE TEACHING CERTIFICATE.

3 G. ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 15 OF EACH YEAR, THE STATE BOARD OF  
4 EDUCATION SHALL REPORT AND POST ON ITS WEBSITE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

5 1. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CERTIFICATED INDIVIDUALS IN THIS STATE  
6 DISAGGREGATED BY THE PATHWAY USED, THE TYPE OF TEACHING CERTIFICATE AND  
7 DEMOGRAPHICS.

8 2. THE NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR  
9 DISAGGREGATED BY THE PATHWAY USED, THE TYPE OF TEACHING CERTIFICATE AND  
10 DEMOGRAPHICS.

11 Sec. 3. Heading change

12 The article heading of title 15, chapter 5, article 3, Arizona  
13 Revised Statutes, is changed from "CERTIFICATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF  
14 TEACHERS" to "CERTIFICATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES".

15 Sec. 4. Section 15-533, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
16 read:

17 15-533. Proficiency examination; examination reciprocity

18 A. To qualify for a standard teaching certificate, ~~or equivalent~~  
19 ANY OTHER certificate ~~later~~ adopted by the state board of education, a  
20 person must pass each component of the proficiency examination developed  
21 and administered by the state board of education UNLESS OTHERWISE EXEMPTED  
22 BY LAW. The proficiency examination shall consist of only a professional  
23 knowledge test and a subject knowledge test.

24 B. A person is not required to take ~~the~~ ANY examination PURSUANT TO  
25 THIS SECTION if the person possesses a comparable valid certification from  
26 another state and is in good standing with that other state pursuant to  
27 section ~~15-203, subsection A, paragraph 27~~ 15-501.01, SUBSECTION D.

28 C. A person who is applying for a standard TEACHING  
29 certificate, ~~or any other certificate adopted by the state board of~~  
30 education, ~~is not required to take the professional knowledge test, the~~  
31 subject knowledge test or the entire proficiency examination if the person  
32 has passed corresponding portions of an examination adopted by a state  
33 agency in another state that is ~~substantially~~ similar to the examination  
34 adopted by the state board of education. A person who is applying for a  
35 standard TEACHING certificate, ~~or any other certificate adopted by the~~  
36 state board of education, ~~is not required to take any portion of the~~  
37 proficiency examination if the person has been a full-time teacher OR IN A  
38 FULL-TIME SCHOOL LEADERSHIP POSITION in any state, including this state,  
39 for at least three years in the same area of certification in which the  
40 person is applying for certification in this state.

41 D. An applicant for a standard TEACHING certificate or any other  
42 certificate adopted by the state board of education may demonstrate  
43 subject knowledge proficiency instead of taking the subject knowledge test  
44 required pursuant to this section by meeting any of the following:



1           1. Has taught courses relevant to a content area or subject matter  
2 for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years  
3 at one or more regionally or nationally accredited public or private  
4 postsecondary institutions. ~~★ THE~~ person shall demonstrate compliance  
5 with this requirement by providing the state board with written proof of  
6 employment for specific durations from one or more qualifying  
7 postsecondary institutions.

8           2. Has either a baccalaureate degree, a master's degree or a  
9 doctoral degree in a subject area that is relevant to a content area or  
10 subject matter taught in public schools.

11           3. Demonstrates expertise through relevant work experience of at  
12 least five years in a field that is relevant to a content area or subject  
13 matter taught in public schools. ~~★ THE~~ person shall demonstrate  
14 compliance with this requirement by providing the state board with written  
15 proof of employment.

16           E. A person who obtained structured English immersion training in  
17 another state that the state board of education determines is comparable  
18 to the structured English immersion training required in this state ~~shall~~  
19 ~~IS~~ not ~~be~~ required to obtain additional structured English immersion  
20 training in this state pursuant to section 15-756.09.

21           F. The state board of education may grant a standard teaching  
22 certificate ~~OR ANY OTHER CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE BOARD~~ for at least  
23 three years to a teacher who has not met the requirements of this section  
24 at the time of application.

25           G. A person is not required to pass the proficiency examination or  
26 the equivalent examination more than once. The state board of education  
27 may adopt rules to modify the requirements of subsection B or C of this  
28 section for persons who have taught, obtained certification or obtained a  
29 master's degree in another country.

30           H. A person who is not required to pass the proficiency examination  
31 developed and administered in this state by the state board of education  
32 pursuant to this section shall ~~only~~ be granted reciprocity for those  
33 proficiency examinations required in this state that pertain to the grade  
34 levels and content areas that the person is certified to teach in another  
35 state.

36           Sec. 5. Section 15-553, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
37 read:

38           15-553. School districts and charter schools; classroom-based  
39 preparation program providers; teacher  
40 certification; rules

41           A. In addition to any alternative preparation program provider path  
42 approved by the state board of education, a school district or charter  
43 school may apply to the state board of education for authority to approve  
44 the certification of teachers as a classroom-based preparation program  
45 provider.

1 B. The state board of education shall adopt rules, policies and  
2 procedures to be administered by the department of education. The rules  
3 may not be more restrictive or require more than is prescribed in this  
4 subsection. The rules shall facilitate the approval and certification  
5 process pursuant to this section and provide for all of the following:

6 1. The superintendent of a school district or the principal of a  
7 charter school must verify that the applicant for certification has made  
8 satisfactory progress and achievement with students. A teacher who is  
9 teaching courses or subjects that are tested by the statewide assessment  
10 pursuant to section 15-741 may not receive a certificate pursuant to this  
11 section until the teacher has been in the classroom for at least two years  
12 and student data has been submitted by the school district or charter  
13 school confirming that the teacher's students, at the end of the school  
14 year, either are performing at grade level or have achieved at least one  
15 year of academic growth at a rate equivalent to the state average for the  
16 students' associated peer groups.

17 2. For informational purposes only, allow a school district or  
18 charter school to submit a program sequence or training schedule along  
19 with any information regarding mentoring and coaching of teacher  
20 candidates.

21 3. A school district or charter school must submit data supporting  
22 the efficacy of the school district's or charter school's teacher  
23 preparation program. A school district or charter school may contract  
24 with a third-party provider to provide the teacher preparation program and  
25 may use that program's efficacy data to meet the requirements of this  
26 paragraph.

27 4. A school district or charter school may adopt PROFESSIONAL  
28 EXPECTATIONS, PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS OR student achievement  
29 requirements that exceed the ~~student achievement~~ EXPECTATIONS AND  
30 requirements prescribed by this section, INCLUDING REQUIRING CANDIDATES TO  
31 COMPETE SPECIFIED COURSEWORK OR TRAININGS.

32 5. An applicant for certification pursuant to this section must  
33 hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited public or private  
34 postsecondary institution and meet background and fingerprint clearance  
35 card requirements pursuant to section 15-534.

36 6. An applicant pursuing certification pursuant to this section  
37 must demonstrate subject knowledge and professional knowledge through any  
38 available option pursuant to section 15-533.

39 C. On the submission of verification from a school district or  
40 charter school that the requirements prescribed in this section have been  
41 met, the state board shall issue a ~~classroom-based~~ standard teaching  
42 certificate to the teacher ~~pursuant to section 15-203~~.

43 ~~D. A school district or charter school may employ and enroll~~  
44 ~~emergency teacher certification holders with a bachelor's degree into its~~  
45 ~~classroom-based preparation program. Notwithstanding any other law and~~

~~beginning in school year 2020-2021, a school district may hire and enroll into its classroom-based preparation program any teaching candidate who meets the requirements of subsection B, paragraph 5 of this section.~~

D. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY EMPLOY AND ENROLL ANY CANDIDATE INTO ITS CLASSROOM-BASED PREPARATION PROGRAM WHO MEETS THE BACKGROUND AND FINGERPRINT CLEARANCE CARD REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-534 AND WHO MEETS AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. IS AN EMERGENCY TEACHER CERTIFICATION HOLDER.
2. IS A TEACHING INTERN CERTIFICATE HOLDER.
3. IS A SUBSTITUTE TEACHING CERTIFICATE HOLDER.
4. HAS EITHER AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE OR BACHELOR'S DEGREE.
5. IS A CURRENT PARAPROFESSIONAL OR INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE.

Sec. 6. Title 15, chapter 5, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-554, to read:

15-554. School districts and charter schools; locally based school leadership preparation program providers; certification; rules

A. IN ADDITION TO ANY ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION PROGRAM PROVIDER PATH APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY APPLY TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPALS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS, SUPERVISORS AND OTHER SCHOOL-LEVEL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AS A LOCALLY BASED SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PREPARATION PROGRAM PROVIDER.

B. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THE RULES MAY NOT BE MORE RESTRICTIVE OR REQUIRE MORE THAN IS PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION. THE RULES SHALL FACILITATE THE APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND PROVIDE FOR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR THE PRINCIPAL OF A CHARTER SCHOOL MUST VERIFY THAT THE APPLICANT FOR CERTIFICATION HAS MADE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN THE PROGRAM SEQUENCE AND MODEL, WHICH MAY INCLUDE PROFESSIONAL EVALUATIONS OF THE APPLICANT, OBSERVATIONS OF THE APPLICANT, STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA AND DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCIES, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE RELEVANT SCHOOL LEADERSHIP POSITION.

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY, ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL TO SUBMIT A PROGRAM SEQUENCE OR TRAINING SCHEDULE ALONG WITH ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE LEARNING EXPERIENCES, MENTORING AND COACHING OF SCHOOL LEADER CANDIDATES.

3. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MUST SUBMIT EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE EFFICACY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S PREPARATION PROGRAM. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY CONTRACT WITH A THIRD-PARTY PROVIDER TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION PROGRAM AND MAY USE THAT PROGRAM'S EFFICACY EVIDENCE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

1           4. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY ADOPT PROFESSIONAL  
2 EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS THAT EXCEED THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY  
3 THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REQUIRING CANDIDATES TO COMPLETE SPECIFIED  
4 COURSEWORK OR TRAININGS.

5           5. AN APPLICANT FOR CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST  
6 HOLD AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM AN ACCREDITED PUBLIC OR PRIVATE  
7 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION AND MEET BACKGROUND AND FINGERPRINT CLEARANCE  
8 CARD REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-534.

9           6. AN APPLICANT PURSUING CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION  
10 MUST DEMONSTRATE SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE AND PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE THROUGH ANY  
11 AVAILABLE OPTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-533.

12           C. ON THE SUBMISSION OF VERIFICATION FROM A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR  
13 CHARTER SCHOOL THAT THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION HAVE BEEN  
14 MET, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A STANDARD PRINCIPAL, ASSISTANT  
15 PRINCIPAL, SUPERVISOR OR OTHER SCHOOL-LEVEL LEADERSHIP POSITION  
16 CERTIFICATE TO THE INDIVIDUAL.

17           D. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY EMPLOY AND ENROLL ANY  
18 INTERIM PRINCIPAL, INTERIM ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OR INTERIM SUPERVISOR  
19 CERTIFICATION HOLDERS WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE INTO ITS LOCALLY BASED  
20 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PREPARATION PROGRAM. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A  
21 SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY HIRE AND ENROLL INTO ITS PREPARATION PROGRAM ANY  
22 CANDIDATE WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION B, PARAGRAPH 5 OF THIS  
23 SECTION.

24           Sec. 7. Heading repeal

25           The article heading of former title 15, chapter 5, article 4,  
26 Arizona Revised Statutes, is repealed.