

House Engrossed

classroom-based preparation program; employment

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HOUSE BILL 2057

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-553, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
CERTIFICATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF 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 15-553, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-553. School districts and charter schools; classroom-based
5 preparation program providers; teacher
6 certification; rules; candidate eligibility;
7 renewal

8 A. In addition to any alternative preparation program provider path
9 approved by the state board of education, a school district or charter
10 school may apply to the state board of education for authority to approve
11 the certification of teachers as a classroom-based preparation program
12 provider.

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

18 1. The superintendent of a school district or the principal of a
19 charter school must verify that the applicant for certification has made
20 satisfactory progress and achievement with students. A teacher who is
21 teaching courses or subjects that are tested by the statewide assessment
22 pursuant to section 15-741 may not receive a certificate pursuant to this
23 section until the teacher has been in the classroom for at least two years
24 and student data has been submitted by the school district or charter
25 school confirming that the teacher's students, at the end of the school
26 year, either are performing at grade level or have achieved at least one
27 year of academic growth at a rate equivalent to the state average for the
28 students' associated peer groups.

29 2. A school district or charter school must submit a program
30 sequence or training schedule along with any information regarding
31 mentoring and coaching of teacher candidates. The state board of
32 education shall provide for a variety of options in program sequence,
33 content and design and may not require a prescribed program sequence,
34 content or design from the school district or charter school in order to
35 obtain approval from the state board.

36 3. A school district or charter school must submit data supporting
37 the efficacy of the school district's or charter school's teacher
38 preparation program. A school district or charter school may contract
39 with a third-party provider to provide the teacher preparation program and
40 may use that program's efficacy data to meet the requirements of this
41 paragraph.

42 4. A school district or charter school may adopt professional
43 expectations, professional requirements or student achievement
44 requirements that exceed the expectations and requirements prescribed by

1 this section, including requiring candidates to complete specified
2 coursework or trainings.

3 5. In order to receive a classroom-based standard teaching
4 certificate after successfully completing the program, an applicant for
5 certification pursuant to this section must hold at least a bachelor's
6 degree from an accredited public or private postsecondary institution and
7 meet background and fingerprint clearance card requirements pursuant to
8 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 7. The application for a school district or charter school to be a
13 classroom-based preparation program provider must include all of the
14 following:

15 (a) The name of the school district or charter school applying.

16 (b) A list of all staff members responsible for administering the
17 program and the roles and responsibilities of each person.

18 (c) The areas of certification for which the applicant will offer
19 the program.

20 (d) A description of the program.

21 C. On the submission of verification from a school district or
22 charter school that the requirements prescribed in this section have been
23 met, the state board shall issue a classroom-based standard teaching
24 certificate to the teacher.

25 D. Notwithstanding any other law, a school district or charter
26 school may employ and enroll ~~any candidate~~ into its classroom-based
27 preparation program **ANY CANDIDATE** who meets the background and fingerprint
28 clearance card requirements pursuant to section 15-534 and who holds at
29 least a bachelor's degree from an accredited public or private
30 postsecondary institution, except that a school district or charter school
31 that operates a classroom-based preparation program may enroll a candidate
32 who does not currently hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited public
33 or private postsecondary institution into the program if the candidate
34 meets all of the following:

35 1. The background and fingerprint clearance card requirements
36 pursuant to section 15-534.

37 2. Is currently enrolled in an accredited public or private
38 postsecondary institution bachelor's degree program.

39 3. Is not a contracted or permanent full-time teacher or the
40 teacher of record for any classroom of students, except that the candidate
41 may be employed by the school district or charter school.

42 4. Does not regularly instruct students without the presence of a
43 full-time teacher, certificated teacher, instructional coach or
44 instructional mentor unless the candidate possesses other means of

1 certification, including an emergency substitute certificate, substitute
2 certificate or emergency teacher certificate.

3 E. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 15-502, A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER
4 SCHOOL SHALL CLASSIFY EACH CANDIDATE WHO IS ENROLLED IN A CLASSROOM-BASED
5 PREPARATION PROGRAM PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL AS A
6 PAID EMPLOYEE.

7 ~~E.~~ F. If a school district or charter school is approved as a
8 classroom-based preparation program provider pursuant to this section, the
9 approval is valid for six years after the date of approval. To continue
10 as a classroom-based preparation program provider, the school district or
11 charter school must apply for renewal before the expiration of its current
12 approval. If the application for renewal is approved by the state board
13 of education, the renewal is valid for six years after the date of the
14 approval.