

REFERENCE TITLE: media literacy instruction; requirements; appropriation

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

## **SB 1656**

Introduced by  
Senator Bennett

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-501.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-718.02; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO SCHOOL CURRICULA.

(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; posting

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:

11 1. Standard teaching certificate.

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

14 3. Subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate for persons  
15 who obtain training pursuant to subsection C, paragraph ~~8~~ 10 of this  
16 section.

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

19 5. Career and technical education teaching certificate.

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

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

44 (a) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited postsecondary  
45 education institution.

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

3 (c) Obtain a valid fingerprint clearance card pursuant to section  
4 15-534.

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

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

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

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

16 (a) Science of reading instruction, including systematic phonics  
17 instruction.

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

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

38 (a) Effectively teaching foundational reading skills, phonological  
39 awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

40 (b) Implementing reading instruction using high-quality  
41 instructional materials.

42 (c) Providing effective instruction and interventions for students  
43 with reading deficiencies, including students with characteristics of  
44 dyslexia.

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

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

15           6. BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2027, SHALL ESTABLISH A MEDIA LITERACY  
16 ENDORSEMENT AS A REQUIREMENT FOR ALL CERTIFICATED TEACHERS WHO PROVIDE  
17 INSTRUCTION IN KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS OR IN ANY OF GRADES ONE THROUGH  
18 TWELVE. THE MEDIA LITERACY ENDORSEMENT SHALL REQUIRE THE TEACHER TO  
19 COMPLETE TRAINING OR COURSEWORK AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD AND TO PASS A  
20 MEDIA LITERACY INSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT TO SHOW THAT THE TEACHER IS CAPABLE  
21 OF DOING BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

22           (a) EFFECTIVELY TEACHING FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS OF INFORMATION  
23 LITERACY, NEWS LITERACY, DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNET SAFETY,  
24 INCLUDING CRITICAL THINKING, IDENTIFYING CREDIBLE INFORMATION RESOURCES,  
25 RECOGNIZING BIAS IN EVERY MEDIA MESSAGE AND THE NORMS OF APPROPRIATE,  
26 RESPONSIBLE, ETHICAL AND HEALTHY BEHAVIOR.

27           (b) IMPLEMENTING MEDIA LITERACY INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING BOTH THE  
28 CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF MEDIA, DIGITAL PRODUCTS AND COMMUNICATION  
29 TECHNOLOGY OF ALL KINDS.

30           7. BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2024, SHALL REQUIRE ALL APPROVED EDUCATOR  
31 PREPARATION PROGRAMS TO REQUIRE THE COURSES THAT ARE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A  
32 MEDIA LITERACY ENDORSEMENT.

33           ~~6.~~ 8. Shall not require a teacher to obtain a master's degree or  
34 to take any additional graduate courses as a condition of certification or  
35 recertification.

36           ~~7.~~ 9. Shall allow but shall not require the superintendent of a  
37 school district to obtain certification from the state board of education.

38           ~~8.~~ 10. Shall provide for the issuance of a subject-matter expert  
39 standard teaching certificate to persons who have expertise in a content  
40 area or a subject matter. Persons who are certified pursuant to this  
41 paragraph shall complete training, if applicable, in structured English  
42 immersion as prescribed by the state board pursuant to section 15-756.09.  
43 Persons who are certified pursuant to this paragraph are exempt from the  
44 subject knowledge proficiency requirements prescribed in section 15-533  
45 and from the proficiency requirements prescribed in section 15-532 on the

1 Constitutions of the United States and Arizona. Persons who are subject  
2 to subdivision (a) of this paragraph are also exempt from the professional  
3 knowledge proficiency requirements pursuant to section 15-533. A person  
4 who obtains a subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate pursuant  
5 to this paragraph may provide instruction in the person's field of  
6 expertise in grades six through twelve at any public school in this state.  
7 Issuance of the subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate may  
8 not be conditioned on the person's employment with a local education  
9 agency. A person who meets the requirements of this paragraph shall be  
10 issued a subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate without  
11 having to demonstrate professional knowledge proficiency pursuant to  
12 section 15-533, except that the person shall have at least two years to  
13 demonstrate professional knowledge proficiency pursuant to section 15-533.  
14 School districts shall evaluate and provide support pursuant to section  
15 15-537 to teachers who are certified pursuant to this paragraph. If a  
16 person fails to meet the professional knowledge requirements of this  
17 section within two years, the department of education or state board of  
18 education may temporarily suspend the subject-matter expert standard  
19 teaching certificate. A certificate that is temporarily suspended  
20 pursuant to this paragraph is not considered a disciplinary action, and a  
21 person shall be allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining  
22 time of the subject-matter expert standard teaching certification. This  
23 paragraph does not require a person who has obtained another type of  
24 teaching certificate from the state board to obtain a subject-matter  
25 expert standard teaching certificate pursuant to this paragraph in order  
26 to provide instruction in grades six through twelve. Persons who are  
27 certificated pursuant to this paragraph shall review and attest to  
28 reviewing the best practices for social media and cellular telephone use  
29 between students and school personnel adopted by the state board of  
30 education pursuant to section 15-203, subsection A, paragraph 44 before  
31 receiving a certificate and, within two years after receiving a  
32 certificate, complete training in professionalism and ethics from a public  
33 or private provider approved by the state board of education, which may  
34 include a no-cost option to the person provided by the state board. A  
35 person is eligible for a subject-matter expert standard teaching  
36 certificate pursuant to this paragraph if the person has a baccalaureate  
37 degree and meets any of the following requirements:

38 (a) Has taught courses relevant to a content area or subject matter  
39 for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years  
40 at one or more regionally or nationally accredited public or private  
41 postsecondary institutions. A person demonstrates compliance with this  
42 requirement by providing the state board with written proof of employment  
43 for specific durations from one or more qualifying postsecondary  
44 institutions.

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

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

9 ~~9.~~ 11. Notwithstanding section 15-533, shall exempt persons  
10 applying for a secondary education certificate from the subject knowledge  
11 portion of the proficiency examination if the state board determines that  
12 the person has work experience in science, technology, engineering or  
13 mathematics and can demonstrate adequate knowledge of a particular subject  
14 through a postsecondary education degree or twenty-four credit hours of  
15 relevant coursework.

16 ~~10.~~ 12. Shall allow for a certificate issued to a person pursuant  
17 to subsection B, paragraph 1, 3, 4 or 5 of this section or section 15-203  
18 or 15-782.01, as applicable, to be both issued and renewed for at least  
19 twelve years and may not require more than fifteen hours of continuing  
20 education credits each year in order to renew that certificate pursuant to  
21 this paragraph.

22 ~~11.~~ 13. Shall allow for a certificate issued to a person pursuant  
23 to subsection B of this section or section 15-132, 15-203 or 15-782.01, as  
24 applicable, and any endorsement or approved area related to that  
25 certificate, to be renewed at least two years but not more than ten years  
26 after that certificate expires without any other requirements adopted by  
27 the state board of education or the department of education if the person  
28 is in good standing and possesses a valid fingerprint clearance card  
29 issued pursuant to section 15-534. A certificate renewed pursuant to this  
30 paragraph shall be identical to the expired certificate.

31 D. The rules for certification reciprocity shall include a  
32 requirement that the applicant possess a comparable valid certification  
33 from another state and be in good standing with that other state. An  
34 applicant who possesses a valid certification from another state and a  
35 fingerprint clearance card pursuant to section 15-534 and who is in good  
36 standing with that other state shall be issued a comparable standard  
37 certificate or a comparable certificate issued pursuant to section 15-132,  
38 15-203 or 15-782.01, as applicable, without any other requirements from  
39 the state board of education or the department of education. A person who  
40 is issued a certificate pursuant to this subsection is not required to  
41 meet any requirement prescribed in section 15-533.

42 E. Placement decisions of teaching intern certificate holders  
43 issued pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 1 of this section and section  
44 15-552 shall be based on agreements between the teacher preparation  
45 provider, the provider's partner organizations and the local education

1 agency. The practices of the department of education and the rules and  
2 policies of the state board of education may not restrict placement of  
3 teaching intern certification holders based on local education agency  
4 instructional models and may only consider the academic quality of the  
5 school, the effectiveness of the teaching intern certification holder's  
6 on-site mentor and the opportunity for a wide variety of schools and  
7 school models to access teaching intern certification holders.

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

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

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

14 (a) A Native American language certificate.

15 (b) A student teaching intern certificate.

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

17 (d) An athletic coaching certificate.

18 (e) An emergency substitute certificate.

19 G. On or before November 15 of each year, the department of  
20 education shall report and post on its website all of the following:

21 1. The total number of teaching certificates issued in the previous  
22 calendar year disaggregated by the type of teaching certificate and  
23 demographics.

24 2. The total number of currently issued teaching certificates in  
25 this state disaggregated by the type of teaching certificate and  
26 demographics.

27 3. Any other historical data or trends regarding certificated  
28 individuals in this state.

29 Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 7, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,  
30 is amended by adding section 15-718.02, to read:

31 15-718.02. Media literacy instruction; academic standards;  
32 evaluation; teacher training; definition

33 A. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP MEDIA LITERACY  
34 STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE STATE  
35 BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 15-701 AND 15-701.01. THE STANDARDS DEVELOPED  
36 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL REQUIRE AGE-APPROPRIATE MEDIA LITERACY  
37 INSTRUCTION TO BE INCORPORATED IN KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND EACH OF GRADES  
38 ONE THROUGH TWELVE.

39 B. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE  
40 GUIDELINES TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT PROVIDE MODEL INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS,  
41 DEFINE LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMEND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR EACH  
42 GRADE LEVEL. THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL  
43 ENCOURAGE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO CONSULT WITH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA  
44 SPECIALISTS, IF POSSIBLE, DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIA LITERACY  
45 CURRICULA AND SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING LEARNING OBJECTIVES:





1 pursuant to subsection A of this section as the baseline for developing  
2 best practices, policies and academic standards pursuant to section  
3 15-718.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act. The state  
4 board of education shall solicit input from experts in media literacy,  
5 including academic experts, nonprofit organizations, teachers, librarians,  
6 school library media specialists, parent organizations, school  
7 administrators and students in rural and urban areas.

8 C. This section is repealed from and after September 30, 2024.

9 Sec. 4. Appropriation; state board of education; media  
10 literacy instruction study

11 A. The sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is appropriated from the state general  
12 fund in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the state board of education to conduct a  
13 study on media literacy instruction in public schools.

14 B. The state board of education may contract with a media literacy  
15 study coordinator for the purposes of this section.