

REFERENCE TITLE: experienced teacher retention pilot program

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fourth Legislature
First Regular Session
2019

HB 2525

Introduced by
Representatives Friese: Blanc, Bolding, Lieberman, Pawlik, Peten

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE EXPERIENCED TEACHER RETENTION PILOT PROGRAM;
APPROPRIATING MONIES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Experienced teacher retention pilot program;
3 requirements; impact study; report; delayed
4 repeal

5 A. The department of education shall conduct a five-year
6 experienced teacher retention pilot program. Persons who are selected by
7 the department to participate in the pilot program are eligible to receive
8 a discount of seventy-five percent on tuition at universities under the
9 jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents for the duration of the pilot
10 program. The department shall establish application procedures for
11 persons who wish to apply to participate in the pilot program. The
12 department, in collaboration with the Arizona board of regents, shall
13 limit the number of persons who are selected to participate in the pilot
14 program to ensure that the cost of the pilot program does not exceed the
15 amount appropriated. The department shall select applicants to
16 participate in the pilot program on a first-come, first-served basis.

17 B. The following persons are eligible to participate in the pilot
18 program:

19 1. A certificated teacher who has been employed at one or more
20 school districts or charter schools in this state for a total of at least
21 ten years.

22 2. The spouse of a person who meets the criteria specified in
23 paragraph 1 of this subsection.

24 3. The dependent of a person who meets the criteria specified in
25 paragraph 1 of this subsection.

26 4. A certificated teacher who has been employed at one or more
27 school districts or charter schools for at least three years but fewer
28 than ten years. A certificated teacher who meets the criterion specified
29 in this paragraph may use the discount specified in this section only to
30 obtain one or more graduate degrees from a college of education and shall
31 sign a contract with the department of education to continue to teach in a
32 public school in this state for at least two years after obtaining the
33 graduate degree.

34 C. If a program participant receives discounted tuition pursuant to
35 subsection B of this section and fails to fulfill the service requirement
36 under the contract, or if the program participant's teacher certificate is
37 revoked by the state board of education pursuant to title 15, Arizona
38 Revised Statutes, the program participant shall repay the amount of the
39 discounted tuition to the department of education.

40 D. Each university that enrolls a program participant shall submit
41 an invoice to the department of education to reimburse the university for
42 the amount of the discounted tuition for that participant. The
43 department, after verifying the amount of the invoice and the person's
44 participation in the pilot program, shall distribute to that university an
45 amount to reimburse the university for the amount of the discounted

1 tuition for that program participant from monies appropriated for this
2 purpose.

3 E. On or before December 31, 2021, the department of education
4 shall issue a request for proposals to contract with one or more qualified
5 persons or entities to study the impact of the experienced teacher
6 retention pilot program on the teacher shortage in this state and the
7 effectiveness of the pilot program. The study shall examine and evaluate
8 the impact of the pilot program in fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and
9 2024-2025. On or before December 31, 2025, the persons or entities
10 selected by the department shall submit a report that summarizes their
11 findings and conclusions to the governor, the superintendent of public
12 instruction, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
13 representatives. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide a
14 copy of this report to the secretary of state.

15 F. The department of education may adopt policies and procedures to
16 carry out the purposes of the pilot program.

17 G. This section is repealed from and after February 15, 2026.

18 Sec. 2. Appropriations; department of education; experienced
19 teacher retention pilot program; impact study;
20 exemption

21 A. The following sums are appropriated from the state general fund
22 in the following fiscal years to the department of education for the costs
23 of the experienced teacher retention pilot program:

- 24 1. In fiscal year 2019-2020, \$2,500,000.
- 25 2. In fiscal year 2020-2021, \$5,000,000.
- 26 3. In fiscal year 2021-2022, \$7,500,000.
- 27 4. In fiscal year 2022-2023, \$10,000,000.
- 28 5. In fiscal year 2023-2024, \$10,000,000.

29 B. The sum of \$2,000,000 is appropriated from the state general
30 fund in fiscal year 2022-2023 to the department of education for
31 distribution to the persons or entities that are selected to study the
32 impact of the experienced teacher retention pilot program as prescribed in
33 this act.

34 C. The department may retain up to two percent of the monies
35 appropriated each fiscal year pursuant to subsection A of this section to
36 administer the pilot program.

37 D. The appropriations made in subsections A and B of this section
38 are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised
39 Statutes, relating to lapsing of appropriations, except that all monies
40 remaining unencumbered or unexpended on July 1, 2024 revert to the state
41 general fund.