

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fourth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2020

SENATE BILL 1492

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1655, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO TEACHER
TRAINING.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-1655, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-1655. Arizona teachers academy: tuition and fees
5 scholarships; fund; annual report; definitions

6 A. Eligible postsecondary institutions shall implement an Arizona
7 teachers academy to incentivize students to enter the teaching profession
8 and to commit to teach in Arizona public schools OR FOR OR IN SCHOOLS THAT
9 SERVE PRIMARILY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, WHICH ARE
10 CONSIDERED PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. The Arizona
11 board of regents, in consultation with eligible postsecondary
12 institutions, shall develop and implement centralized administrative
13 processes for the academy, including:

14 1. A marketing and promotion plan to recruit students for the
15 academy.

16 2. Data collection and reporting.

17 3. Tracking postgraduation service requirements.

18 4. Coordinating induction services.

19 5. Distributing monies in the Arizona teachers academy fund between
20 eligible postsecondary institutions.

21 6. Collecting reimbursement from individuals who fail to meet
22 service obligations.

23 B. The Arizona teachers academy may include new or existing teacher
24 preparation program pathways that are student-focused and that employ
25 proven, research-based models of best practices already being implemented.
26 Each eligible postsecondary institution may develop a portfolio of teacher
27 preparation programs to offer as part of the academy. EACH ELIGIBLE
28 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION THAT ADMITS STUDENTS TO THE ARIZONA TEACHERS
29 ACADEMY MAY GIVE PRIORITY TO SENIOR AND JUNIOR STUDENTS BUT MAY NOT
30 EXCLUDE SOPHOMORE AND FRESHMEN STUDENTS. Programs offered as part of the
31 academy shall include accelerated models for:

32 1. High-demand teacher specializations, including special
33 education, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

34 2. Critical need areas, including low-income public schools, public
35 schools located on Indian reservations, ~~and~~ rural public schools AND
36 SCHOOLS THAT SERVE PRIMARILY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

37 3. Individuals seeking postbaccalaureate coursework that results in
38 professional certification.

39 4. TEACHERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY TEACHING A DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE TO
40 SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHING A DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE ADOPTED BY
41 A HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION THAT ACCREDITS DEGREE-GRANTING POSTSECONDARY
42 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION, INCLUDING THIS
43 STATE.

1 5. STUDENTS IN NONEDUCATION PROGRAMS TO COMPLETE ONE OR MORE
2 TEACHER PREPARATION COURSES TO PREPARE THE STUDENT TO RECEIVE A TEACHING
3 CERTIFICATION FOLLOWING GRADUATION.

4 C. Each eligible postsecondary institution shall develop formalized
5 partnerships with public schools in this state to build commitments for
6 teacher employment on completion of the Arizona teachers academy. The
7 targeted deployment of teachers who have completed the academy shall be
8 based on the needs of each school system and the community that is being
9 served as well as the individual skills of each teacher.

10 D. Each eligible postsecondary institution shall provide to each
11 full-time student who is enrolled in the Arizona teachers academy an
12 annual scholarship of \$10,000 per year for a maximum of two academic years
13 or four semesters for graduate university students, \$5,000 per year for a
14 maximum of four academic years or eight semesters for undergraduate
15 university students, \$3,000 per year for a maximum of two academic years
16 or four semesters for community college students for tuition and fees
17 associated with the student's program of study and \$2,500 onetime for
18 teachers seeking national board certification, after all other financial
19 gifts, aid or grants received by that student or teacher. Scholarships
20 under this subsection are subject to all of the following:

21 1. If the student does not successfully complete the academic year
22 in good academic standing, the student shall reimburse the Arizona board
23 of regents for the total amount of the scholarship for tuition and fees
24 the student received for that year.

25 2. For each academic year that the student successfully completes
26 and for which the student receives a scholarship for all tuition and fees,
27 the student must agree to teach for one full school year in a public
28 school in this state. For students WHO ARE teaching and receiving the
29 scholarship concurrently, the commitment period begins after graduation
30 from the Arizona teachers academy. For teachers seeking a national board
31 certification, the teaching commitment is one additional year after
32 completing the requirements of the national board certification program.

33 3. If the scholarship does not cover remaining tuition and fee
34 costs after other aid received, the eligible postsecondary institution may
35 not charge students the remaining difference. If the scholarship amount
36 exceeds tuition and fee costs at an eligible postsecondary institution,
37 the institution may use the remaining amount to support Arizona teachers
38 academy costs.

39 4. If the student does not fulfill the student's obligation to
40 teach in a public school, the student must reimburse the Arizona board of
41 regents for the proportional amount of the scholarship for tuition and
42 fees that the student received that corresponds to the number of school
43 years the student agreed to teach but did not teach in a public school in
44 this state.

1 5. If the student is physically or mentally unable to fulfill the
2 requirements of the Arizona teachers academy, the Arizona board of regents
3 shall establish a process for assessing the student's ability to repay the
4 financial assistance received and shall ~~make a determination on~~ DETERMINE
5 any terms of repayment.

6 6. The Arizona board of regents shall establish a process for
7 deferring service or repayment based on factors adopted by the board.

8 ~~E. Students enrolled in a noneducation program in the Arizona~~
9 ~~teachers academy must complete one or more teacher preparation courses to~~
10 ~~ensure the likelihood that the student will transition into a~~
11 ~~postbaccalaureate program to receive a teaching certification following~~
12 ~~graduation.~~

13 ~~F.~~ E. The Arizona teachers academy fund is established consisting
14 of legislative appropriations made for the purpose of administering the
15 Arizona teachers academy. Monies in the fund are continuously
16 appropriated and are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating
17 to the lapsing of appropriations. The Arizona board of regents shall
18 administer the fund and shall establish criteria for distributing monies
19 in the fund to eligible postsecondary institutions each fiscal year to
20 fund the costs of the academy. Monies in the fund may be used only for:

21 1. Reimbursing Arizona teachers academy scholarships that cover the
22 balance of tuition and fees for undergraduate, graduate and
23 postbaccalaureate students enrolled in the Arizona teachers academy after
24 all other gifts and aid received.

25 2. Support for teachers who are currently employed in a public
26 school in this state and who are seeking a national board certification.

27 3. Induction services for Arizona teachers academy graduates.

28 4. Implementing a marketing and promotion plan to recruit and
29 retain students in the Arizona teachers academy and administering the
30 Arizona teachers academy. Annual expenditures for marketing, promoting
31 and ~~administrating~~ ADMINISTERING the Arizona teachers academy may not
32 exceed three percent of the monies in the fund each fiscal year.

33 ~~G.~~ F. Monies remaining in the Arizona teachers academy fund at the
34 end of each fiscal year may be used by eligible postsecondary institutions
35 for Arizona teachers academy costs in the next fiscal year.

36 ~~H.~~ G. On or before August 1 of each fiscal year, the state general
37 fund appropriation for the Arizona teachers academy for the current fiscal
38 year shall be reduced by the amount of monies remaining in the Arizona
39 teachers academy fund at the end of the prior fiscal year.

40 ~~I.~~ H. On or before March 1, 2020 and each year thereafter, the
41 Arizona board of regents shall report to the joint legislative budget
42 committee and the governor's office of strategic planning and budgeting on
43 all of the following:

1 1. The total number of students enrolled in the Arizona teachers
2 academy by eligible postsecondary institution in the current academic
3 year.

4 2. The number of Arizona teachers academy graduates receiving
5 induction services in the current academic year.

6 3. The estimated amount of monies committed from the Arizona
7 teachers academy fund in the current fiscal year.

8 ~~I.~~ I. On or before September 1, ~~2019 and~~ each year ~~thereafter~~, the
9 Arizona board of regents shall report to the governor, the president of
10 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, and shall
11 submit a copy to the secretary of state, on all of the following:

12 1. The total number of students enrolled in the Arizona teachers
13 academy at each eligible postsecondary institution by year of college
14 enrollment and the number of teachers receiving a scholarship through the
15 Arizona teachers academy for national board certification.

16 2. The percentage of students who completed each year of the
17 academy and who plan to continue to the subsequent year, delineated by
18 each teacher preparation program offered by each eligible postsecondary
19 institution as part of the Arizona teachers academy.

20 3. The number of teachers who completed a program of study through
21 the Arizona teachers academy by each eligible postsecondary institution.

22 4. The number of teachers currently teaching in a public school in
23 this state as part of an agreement for receiving an Arizona teachers
24 academy scholarship.

25 5. The number of graduates receiving induction services.

26 6. The number of students who have defaulted on their obligation
27 and who are in repayment agreements.

28 7. The number of students who have deferred repayment agreements.

29 8. The number of students who have completed repayment agreements.

30 9. The methodology for distributing any monies appropriated for the
31 Arizona teachers academy to each eligible postsecondary institution and
32 the amounts distributed to each.

33 10. The amount of unused monies in the Arizona teachers academy
34 fund from the prior fiscal year.

35 J. A COLLEGE IN THIS STATE THAT IS OWNED, OPERATED OR CHARTERED BY
36 A QUALIFYING INDIAN TRIBE ON ITS OWN INDIAN RESERVATION AND THAT OFFERS
37 BACCALAUREATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE ARIZONA
38 TEACHERS ACADEMY AND RECEIVE MONIES FROM THE ARIZONA TEACHERS ACADEMY FUND
39 ESTABLISHED BY THIS SECTION.

40 K. For the purposes of this section:

41 1. "Eligible postsecondary institutions" means universities under
42 the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents, ~~and~~ community colleges
43 in this state that offer postbaccalaureate programs that lead to teacher
44 certification and that have entered into an agreement with the Arizona
45 board of regents relative to these postbaccalaureate programs, AND

1 COLLEGES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION J OF THIS SECTION IF THE COLLEGE OPTS TO
2 PARTICIPATE IN THE ARIZONA TEACHERS ACADEMY UNDER SUBSECTION J OF THIS
3 SECTION.

4 2. "SCHOOL THAT SERVES PRIMARILY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH
5 DISABILITIES" MEANS A SCHOOL IN WHICH MORE THAN SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF
6 THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL ARE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE
7 PLACED AT THE SCHOOL ACCORDING TO AN AGREEMENT WITH A SCHOOL, A CHARTER
8 SCHOOL OR THE ARIZONA STATE SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND.

9 ~~2.~~ 3. "Tuition and fees" means tuition, mandatory fees and program
10 fees that are associated with a program in the Arizona teachers academy
11 leading to teacher certification and that are charged by an eligible
12 postsecondary institution.