

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

SENATE BILL 1593

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-214, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-214, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-214. Braille literacy: rules: requirements: definitions

5 A. The state board of education shall adopt rules to promote
6 braille literacy that:

7 1. ~~Assure~~ ENSURE that each blind pupil receives an individualized
8 braille literacy assessment and appropriate educational services resulting
9 from the assessment, establish standards of proficiency and instruction,
10 provide materials in a computer accessible format capable of braille
11 reproduction and require that certified teachers of visually impaired
12 pupils meet braille competencies as specified in this section.

13 2. ~~Assure~~ ENSURE that, in developing the individualized written
14 education program for each blind pupil, the presumption ~~shall be~~ IS that
15 proficiency in braille is essential for that pupil to achieve satisfactory
16 educational progress. Braille instruction and use are not required by
17 this section if, in the course of developing the pupil's individualized
18 education program, all members of the team concur that the pupil's visual
19 impairment does not affect reading and writing performance commensurate
20 with ability. ~~Nothing in~~ This section ~~requires~~ DOES NOT REQUIRE the
21 exclusive use of braille if other special education services are
22 appropriate to the pupil's educational needs. The provision of other
23 appropriate services does not preclude braille use or instruction.

24 3. ~~Assure~~ ENSURE that instruction in braille is sufficient to
25 enable each blind pupil to communicate effectively and efficiently in all
26 subject areas with the same level of proficiency expected of the pupil's
27 peers of comparable ability and grade level. The pupil's individualized
28 education program shall specify:

29 (a) The results of a braille assessment.

30 (b) The methods by which braille will be implemented.

31 (c) The date on which braille instruction will begin.

32 (d) The length of the period of instruction and the frequency and
33 duration of each instructional session.

34 (e) The level of competency in braille to be achieved by the end of
35 the period of instruction and a description of the objective measures to
36 be used to evaluate the pupil's level of competency.

37 (f) A list of the appropriate braille materials and equipment
38 needed to allow the pupil to achieve the level of competency specified in
39 the individualized education program.

40 (g) The rationale for not providing braille if braille is not
41 determined to be an appropriate medium.

42 4. ~~Assure~~ ENSURE that the department of education ~~shall require~~
43 REQUIRES all publishers of textbooks to furnish the department with
44 ~~computer diskettes~~ ELECTRONIC VERSIONS for literary and nonliterary
45 subjects when ~~diskettes~~ ELECTRONIC VERSIONS become available for

1 nonliterary subjects, in a standard format approved by the department of
2 education from which braille versions of the textbook can be produced.

3 5. ~~Assure~~ ENSURE that teachers certified in ~~the education of~~
4 EDUCATING blind PUPILS and visually impaired pupils in this state ~~on or~~
5 ~~after July 1, 1997 shall be~~ ARE required to demonstrate competence in
6 braille. ~~Competence shall be~~ AS measured by SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING
7 either:

8 (a) ~~Successful completion of A nationally validated test, when such~~
9 ~~a test is available~~ NATIONAL CERTIFICATION IN UNIFIED ENGLISH BRAILLE
10 EXAMINATION.

11 (b) ~~Successful completion of A~~ COMPARABLE braille test developed in
12 ~~the A UNIVERSITY-LEVEL TEACHER PREPARATION program in visual impairment at~~
13 ~~the university of Arizona~~ FOR BLIND PUPILS AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS.

14 B. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT RULES TO ENSURE THAT
15 BLIND PUPILS AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS RECEIVE APPROPRIATE QUALITY
16 BLINDNESS COMPENSATORY SKILLS TRAINING TO ALLOW EACH PUPIL TO COMPLETE THE
17 EXPANDED CORE CURRICULUM GOALS IN THE BLIND PUPIL'S AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
18 PUPIL'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM BY ENSURING THAT ALL TEACHERS OF
19 ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY INSTRUCTION FOR BLIND PUPILS OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED
20 PUPILS ARE REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCE IN THE FIELD OF ORIENTATION
21 AND MOBILITY.

22 ~~B.~~ C. ~~As used in~~ FOR THE PURPOSES OF this section: ~~—~~

23 1. "Blind pupil" means a pupil who meets one or more of the
24 following conditions:

25 ~~1.~~ (a) Cannot successfully use vision as a primary and efficient
26 channel for learning.

27 ~~2.~~ (b) Exhibits such a low degree or amount of visual acuity or
28 visual field that vision is not considered as a primary mode of learning.

29 ~~3.~~ (c) Has a medically indicated prognosis of visual
30 deterioration.

31 2. "COMPENSATORY SKILLS" MEANS THOSE SKILLS NEEDED BY BLIND PUPILS
32 OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS TO ACCESS ALL AREAS OF THE GENERAL CURRICULUM.

33 3. "EXPANDED CORE CURRICULUM" MEANS THE KNOWLEDGE, CONCEPTS AND
34 SKILLS TYPICALLY LEARNED INCIDENTALLY BY SIGHTED PUPILS THAT MUST BE
35 TAUGHT TO BLIND PUPILS OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS USING ALTERNATIVE
36 TECHNIQUES.

37 4. "ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY" MEANS THE ABILITY TO TRAVEL SAFELY
38 AND EFFECTIVELY IN ONE'S ENVIRONMENT USING ALTERNATIVE BLINDNESS SKILLS.