

REFERENCE TITLE: teachers academy; revisions

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
First Regular Session
2021

SB 1717

Introduced by
Senators Boyer: Gray, Shope

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1655, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY 2020 PROPOSITION 208, SECTION 4; REPEALING SECTION 15-1655, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2020, CHAPTER 85, SECTION 1; RELATING TO THE ARIZONA TEACHERS ACADEMY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Subject to the requirements of article IV, part 1,
3 section 1, Constitution of Arizona, section 15-1655, Arizona Revised
4 Statutes, as amended by 2020 Proposition 208, section 4, is amended to
5 read:

6 15-1655. Arizona teachers academy; tuition and fees
7 scholarships; fund; annual report; definitions

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

- 16 1. A marketing and promotion plan to recruit students for the
17 academy.
- 18 2. Data collection and reporting.
- 19 3. Tracking postgraduation service requirements.
- 20 4. Coordinating induction services.
- 21 5. Distributing monies in the Arizona teachers academy fund between
22 eligible postsecondary institutions.
- 23 6. Collecting reimbursement from individuals who fail to meet
24 service obligations.

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

- 34 1. High-demand teacher specializations, including special
35 education, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- 36 2. Critical need areas, including low-income public schools, public
37 schools located on Indian reservations, **and** rural public schools **AND**
38 **SCHOOLS THAT SERVE PRIMARILY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.**
- 39 3. Individuals seeking postbaccalaureate coursework that results in
40 professional certification.
- 41 4. **TEACHERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY TEACHING A DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE TO**
42 **SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHING A DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE ADOPTED BY**
43 **A HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION THAT ACCREDITS DEGREE-GRANTING POSTSECONDARY**
44 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION, INCLUDING THIS**
45 **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 up to the actual cost of tuition and fees for a maximum
13 of two academic years or four semesters for graduate university students,
14 up to the actual cost of tuition and fees ~~for a~~ FOR A maximum of four
15 academic years or eight semesters for undergraduate university students,
16 up to the actual cost of tuition and fees for a maximum of two academic
17 years or four semesters for community college students for tuition and
18 fees associated with the student's program of study, up to the actual cost
19 of obtaining national board certification and renewal, and up to the
20 actual cost of obtaining a teaching certificate including the actual cost
21 of the exam, after all other financial gifts, aid or grants received by
22 that student or teacher. Scholarships under this subsection are subject
23 to all of the following:

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

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

36 3. IF A STUDENT ENROLLS IN A SUMMER TERM, THAT TERM MAY NOT BE
37 INCLUDED IN THE CALCULATION OF THE STUDENT'S POSTGRADUATION PUBLIC SERVICE
38 COMMITMENT.

39 ~~3.~~ 4. If the scholarship does not cover remaining tuition and fee
40 costs after other aid received, the eligible postsecondary institution may
41 not charge students the remaining difference. If the scholarship amount
42 exceeds tuition and fee costs at an eligible postsecondary institution,
43 the institution may use the remaining amount to support Arizona teachers
44 academy costs.

1 ~~4.~~ 5. If the student does not fulfill the student's obligation to
2 teach in a public school, the student must reimburse the Arizona board of
3 regents for the proportional amount of the scholarship for tuition and
4 fees that the student received that corresponds to the number of school
5 years the student agreed to teach but did not teach in a public school in
6 this state.

7 ~~5.~~ 6. If the student is physically or mentally unable to fulfill
8 the requirements of the Arizona teachers academy, the Arizona board of
9 regents shall establish a process for assessing the student's ability to
10 repay the financial assistance received and shall ~~make a determination on~~
11 **DETERMINE** any terms of repayment.

12 ~~6.~~ 7. The Arizona board of regents shall establish a process for
13 deferring service or repayment based on factors adopted by the board.

14 ~~E. Students enrolled in a noneducation program in the Arizona~~
15 ~~teachers academy must complete one or more teacher preparation courses to~~
16 ~~ensure the likelihood that the student will transition into a~~
17 ~~postbaccalaureate program to receive a teaching certification following~~
18 ~~graduation.~~

19 ~~F.~~ E. The Arizona teachers academy fund is established consisting
20 of monies deposited pursuant to section 15-1281, subsection D, paragraph 5
21 and legislative appropriations made for the purpose of administering the
22 Arizona teachers academy. Monies in the fund are continuously
23 appropriated and are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating
24 to the lapsing of appropriations. The Arizona board of regents shall
25 administer the fund and shall establish criteria for distributing monies
26 in the fund to eligible postsecondary institutions each fiscal year to
27 fund the costs of the academy. Monies in the fund may be used only for:

28 1. Reimbursing Arizona teachers academy scholarships that cover the
29 balance of tuition and fees for undergraduate, graduate and
30 postbaccalaureate students enrolled in the Arizona teachers academy after
31 all other gifts and aid received.

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

34 3. Induction services for Arizona teachers academy graduates.

35 4. Implementing a marketing and promotion plan to recruit and
36 retain students in the Arizona teachers academy with particular emphasis
37 on ensuring participants reflect the diversity of the state's student
38 population and administering the Arizona teachers academy. Annual
39 expenditures for marketing, promoting and ~~administrating~~ **ADMINISTERING** the
40 Arizona teachers academy may not exceed three percent of the monies in the
41 fund each fiscal year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 1. The total number of students enrolled in the Arizona teachers
17 academy at each eligible postsecondary institution by year of college
18 enrollment and the number of teachers receiving a scholarship through the
19 Arizona teachers academy for national board certification.

20 2. The percentage of students who completed each year of the
21 academy and who plan to continue to the subsequent year, delineated by
22 each teacher preparation program offered by each eligible postsecondary
23 institution as part of the Arizona teachers academy.

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

26 4. The number of teachers currently teaching in a public school in
27 this state as part of an agreement for receiving an Arizona teachers
28 academy scholarship.

29 5. The number of graduates receiving induction services.

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

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

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

34 9. The methodology for distributing any monies appropriated for the
35 Arizona teachers academy to each eligible postsecondary institution and
36 the amounts distributed to each.

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

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

1 J. For the purposes of this section:

2 1. "Eligible postsecondary institutions" means universities under
3 the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents, ~~and~~ community colleges
4 in this state that offer postbaccalaureate programs that lead to teacher
5 certification and that have entered into an agreement with the Arizona
6 board of regents relative to these postbaccalaureate programs, AND
7 COLLEGES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION I OF THIS SECTION IF THE COLLEGE OPTS TO
8 PARTICIPATE IN THE ARIZONA TEACHERS ACADEMY UNDER SUBSECTION I OF THIS
9 SECTION.

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

15 ~~2.~~ 3. "Tuition and fees" means tuition, mandatory fees and program
16 fees that are associated with a program in the Arizona teachers academy
17 leading to teacher certification and that are charged by an eligible
18 postsecondary institution.

19 Sec. 2. Repeal

20 Section 15-1655, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by Laws 2020,
21 chapter 85, section 1, is repealed.

22 Sec. 3. Retroactivity

23 This act applies retroactively to from and after December 31, 2020.

24 Sec. 4. Requirements for enactment; three-fourths vote

25 Pursuant to article IV, part 1, section 1, Constitution of Arizona,
26 section 15-1655, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by 2020 Proposition
27 208, section 4 and this act, is effective only on the affirmative vote of
28 at least three-fourths of the members of each house of the legislature.