

REFERENCE TITLE: teachers academy; service requirement

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
First Regular Session
2021

HB 2117

Introduced by
Representatives Bolick: Blackman

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1655, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY 2020 PROPOSITION 208, SECTION 4; AMENDING SECTION 15-1655, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2020, CHAPTER 85, SECTION 1; RELATING TO SCHOOL EMPLOYEE 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, as amended by
3 2020 Proposition 208, section 4, is amended to 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. The Arizona board of
9 regents, in consultation with eligible postsecondary institutions, shall
10 develop and implement centralized administrative processes for the
11 academy, including:

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

21 B. The Arizona teachers academy may include new or existing teacher
22 preparation program pathways that are student-focused and that employ
23 proven, research-based models of best practices already being implemented.
24 Each eligible postsecondary institution may develop a portfolio of teacher
25 preparation programs to offer as part of the academy. Programs offered as
26 part of the academy shall include accelerated models for:

- 27 1. High-demand teacher specializations, including special
28 education, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- 29 2. Critical need areas, including low-income public schools, public
30 schools located on Indian reservations and rural public schools.
- 31 3. Individuals seeking postbaccalaureate coursework that results in
32 professional certification.

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

39 D. Each eligible postsecondary institution shall provide to each
40 full-time student who is enrolled in the Arizona teachers academy an
41 annual scholarship up to the actual cost of tuition and fees for a maximum
42 of two academic years or four semesters for graduate university students,
43 up to the actual cost of tuition and fees for a maximum of four academic
44 years or eight semesters for undergraduate university students, up to the
45 actual cost of tuition and fees for a maximum of two academic years or

1 four semesters for community college students for tuition and fees
2 associated with the student's program of study, up to the actual cost of
3 obtaining national board certification and renewal, and up to the actual
4 cost of obtaining a teaching certificate including the actual cost of the
5 exam, after all other financial gifts, aid or grants received by that
6 student or teacher. Scholarships under this subsection are subject to all
7 of the following:

8 1. If the student does not successfully complete the academic year
9 in good academic standing, the student shall reimburse the Arizona board
10 of regents for the total amount of the scholarship for tuition and fees
11 the student received for that year.

12 2. For each academic year that the student successfully completes
13 and for which the student receives a scholarship for all tuition and fees,
14 the student must agree to teach for one full school year in a public
15 school in this state. For students WHO ARE teaching and receiving the
16 scholarship concurrently, the commitment period begins after graduation
17 from the Arizona teachers academy. For teachers WHO ARE seeking a
18 national board certification, the teaching commitment is one additional
19 year after completing the requirements of the national board certification
20 program.

21 3. NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN UNDERGRADUATE
22 STUDENT WHO IS RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BEGIN
23 FULFILLING THE STUDENT'S SERVICE REQUIREMENT UNDER THIS SECTION BEFORE THE
24 STUDENT GRADUATES FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM. IF A STUDENT OPTS TO
25 BEGIN FULFILLING THE STUDENT'S SERVICE REQUIREMENT BEFORE THE STUDENT
26 GRADUATES, ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

27 (a) THE STUDENT MAY BEGIN FULFILLING THE SERVICE REQUIREMENT
28 THROUGH VOLUNTEER OR PAID WORK IN A SCHOOL, INCLUDING SERVING AS A TUTOR,
29 AS AN ASSISTANT TEACHER OR IN ANOTHER POSITION THAT IS STUDENT-LEARNING
30 FOCUSED.

31 (b) STUDENT TEACHING DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD THE SERVICE REQUIREMENT.

32 (c) THE STUDENT MUST COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF THE PROGRAM IN
33 GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING BEFORE BEGINNING TO FULFILL THE SERVICE
34 REQUIREMENT.

35 ~~3.~~ 4. If the scholarship does not cover remaining tuition and fee
36 costs after other aid received, the eligible postsecondary institution may
37 not charge students the remaining difference. If the scholarship amount
38 exceeds tuition and fee costs at an eligible postsecondary institution,
39 the institution may use the remaining amount to support Arizona teachers
40 academy costs.

41 ~~4.~~ 5. If the student does not fulfill the student's obligation to
42 teach in a public school, the student must reimburse the Arizona board of
43 regents for the proportional amount of the scholarship for tuition and
44 fees that the student received that corresponds to the number of school

1 years the student agreed to teach but did not teach in a public school in
2 this state.

3 ~~5.~~ 6. If the student is physically or mentally unable to fulfill
4 the requirements of the Arizona teachers academy, the Arizona board of
5 regents shall establish a process for assessing the student's ability to
6 repay the financial assistance received and shall make a determination on
7 any terms of repayment.

8 ~~6.~~ 7. The Arizona board of regents shall establish a process for
9 deferring service or repayment based on factors adopted by the board.

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

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

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

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

30 3. Induction services for Arizona teachers academy graduates.

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

38 G. Monies remaining in the Arizona teachers academy fund at the end
39 of each fiscal year may be used by eligible postsecondary institutions for
40 Arizona teachers academy costs in the next fiscal year.

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

36 1. "Eligible postsecondary institutions" means universities under
37 the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents and community colleges in
38 this state that offer postbaccalaureate programs that lead to teacher
39 certification and that have entered into an agreement with the Arizona
40 board of regents relative to these postbaccalaureate programs.

41 2. "Tuition and fees" means tuition, mandatory fees and program fees
42 that are associated with a program in the Arizona teachers academy leading
43 to teacher certification and that are charged by an eligible postsecondary
44 institution.

1 Sec. 2. Section 15-1655, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by
2 Laws 2020, chapter 85, section 1, is amended to read:

3 15-1655. Arizona teachers academy; tuition and fees
4 scholarships; fund; annual report; definitions

5 A. Eligible postsecondary institutions shall implement an Arizona
6 teachers academy to incentivize students to enter the teaching profession
7 and to commit to teach in Arizona public schools or for or in schools that
8 serve primarily public school students with disabilities, which are
9 considered public schools for the purposes of this section. The Arizona
10 board of regents, in consultation with eligible postsecondary
11 institutions, shall develop and implement centralized administrative
12 processes for the academy, including:

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

22 B. The Arizona teachers academy may include new or existing teacher
23 preparation program pathways that are student-focused and that employ
24 proven, research-based models of best practices already being implemented.
25 Each eligible postsecondary institution may develop a portfolio of teacher
26 preparation programs to offer as part of the academy. Each eligible
27 postsecondary institution that admits students to the Arizona teachers
28 academy may give priority to senior and junior students but may not
29 exclude sophomore and freshmen students. Programs offered as part of the
30 academy shall include accelerated models for:

- 31 1. High-demand teacher specializations, including special
32 education, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- 33 2. Critical need areas, including low-income public schools, public
34 schools located on Indian reservations, rural public schools and schools
35 that serve primarily public school students with disabilities.
- 36 3. Individuals seeking postbaccalaureate coursework that results in
37 professional certification.
- 38 4. Teachers who are currently teaching a dual enrollment course to
39 satisfy the requirements for teaching a dual enrollment course adopted by
40 a higher learning commission that accredits degree-granting postsecondary
41 educational institutions in the north central region, including this
42 state.
- 43 5. Students in noneducation programs to complete one or more
44 teacher preparation courses to prepare the student to receive a teaching
45 certification following graduation.

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

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

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

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

31 3. NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN UNDERGRADUATE
32 STUDENT WHO IS RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BEGIN
33 FULFILLING THE STUDENT'S SERVICE REQUIREMENT UNDER THIS SECTION BEFORE THE
34 STUDENT GRADUATES FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM. IF A STUDENT OPTS TO
35 BEGIN FULFILLING THE STUDENT'S SERVICE REQUIREMENT BEFORE THE STUDENT
36 GRADUATES, ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

37 (a) THE STUDENT MAY BEGIN FULFILLING THE SERVICE REQUIREMENT
38 THROUGH VOLUNTEER OR PAID WORK IN A SCHOOL, INCLUDING SERVING AS A TUTOR,
39 AS AN ASSISTANT TEACHER OR IN ANOTHER POSITION THAT IS STUDENT-LEARNING
40 FOCUSED.

41 (b) STUDENT TEACHING DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD THE SERVICE REQUIREMENT.

42 (c) THE STUDENT MUST COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF THE PROGRAM IN
43 GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING BEFORE BEGINNING TO FULFILL THE SERVICE
44 REQUIREMENT.

1 ~~3.~~ 4. If the scholarship does not cover remaining tuition and fee
2 costs after other aid received, the eligible postsecondary institution may
3 not charge students the remaining difference. If the scholarship amount
4 exceeds tuition and fee costs at an eligible postsecondary institution,
5 the institution may use the remaining amount to support Arizona teachers
6 academy costs.

7 ~~4.~~ 5. If the student does not fulfill the student's obligation to
8 teach in a public school, the student must reimburse the Arizona board of
9 regents for the proportional amount of the scholarship for tuition and
10 fees that the student received that corresponds to the number of school
11 years the student agreed to teach but did not teach in a public school in
12 this state.

13 ~~5.~~ 6. If the student is physically or mentally unable to fulfill
14 the requirements of the Arizona teachers academy, the Arizona board of
15 regents shall establish a process for assessing the student's ability to
16 repay the financial assistance received and shall determine any terms of
17 repayment.

18 ~~6.~~ 7. The Arizona board of regents shall establish a process for
19 deferring service or repayment based on factors adopted by the board.

20 E. The Arizona teachers academy fund is established consisting of
21 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 and administering the
37 Arizona teachers academy. Annual expenditures for marketing, promoting
38 and administering the Arizona teachers academy may not exceed three
39 percent of the monies in the fund each fiscal year.

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

43 G. On or before August 1 of each fiscal year, the state general
44 fund appropriation for the Arizona teachers academy for the current fiscal

1 year shall be reduced by the amount of monies remaining in the Arizona
2 teachers academy fund at the end of the prior fiscal year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 5. The number of graduates receiving induction services.

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

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

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

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

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

41 J. A college in this state that is owned, operated or chartered by
42 a qualifying Indian tribe on its own Indian reservation and that offers
43 baccalaureate teacher education programs may participate in the Arizona
44 teachers academy and receive monies from the Arizona teachers academy fund
45 established by this section.

1 K. For the purposes of this section:

2 1. "Eligible postsecondary institutions" means universities under
3 the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents, community colleges in
4 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 J of this section if the college opts to
8 participate in the Arizona teachers academy under subsection J 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 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.