

REFERENCE TITLE: **baccalaureate degrees; substitute certificates**

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

SB 1412

Introduced by
Senator Mesnard

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-501.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL EMPLOYEES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-501.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 15-501.01. Requirements for teachers; teaching certificates;
5 rules; reciprocity; placement

6 A. Notwithstanding any other law, all teachers who are certificated
7 pursuant to this section must have a baccalaureate degree and a valid
8 fingerprint clearance card.

9 B. The state board of education shall adopt rules for the issuance
10 of the following types of certificates for teachers to reflect the source
11 of the training the teacher obtains:

12 1. Standard teaching certificate.

13 2. Alternative teaching certificate for persons who obtain training
14 pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 1 of this section.

15 3. Subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate for persons
16 who obtain training pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 8 of this section.

17 4. Classroom-based standard teaching certificate for persons who
18 obtain training from a school district or charter school.

19 5. Career and technical education teaching certificate.

20 C. The state board of education shall adopt rules to carry out the
21 purposes of this section. The rules:

22 1. Shall provide for a variety of alternative teacher and
23 administrator preparation programs that allow for variations in program
24 sequence and design to apply for program approval. The state board shall
25 adopt rules pursuant to this paragraph designed to allow for a variety of
26 formats and shall not require a prescribed answer or design from the
27 program provider in order to obtain approval from the state board. Any
28 rules adopted by the state board pursuant to this paragraph shall be
29 substantially different from the rules adopted for the approval of
30 traditional preparation programs and may not unnecessarily restrict a
31 variety of alternative preparation programs from operating and providing
32 instruction in this state. The state board shall evaluate each program
33 provider based on the program's ability to prepare teachers and
34 administrators and to recruit teachers and administrators with a variety
35 of experiences and talents. The state board shall allow universities
36 under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents, community colleges
37 in this state, private postsecondary institutions licensed by this state,
38 school districts, charter schools, professional organizations, nonprofit
39 organizations and private entities to apply for program approval and shall
40 create application procedures and certification criteria that are
41 substantially less restrictive than those for traditional preparation
42 programs. At the completion of an alternative preparation program,
43 graduates shall:

44 (a) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited postsecondary
45 education institution.

1 (b) If applicable, demonstrate professional knowledge and subject
2 knowledge proficiency pursuant to section 15-533.

3 (c) Obtain a valid fingerprint clearance card pursuant to section
4 15-534.

5 (d) If applicable, complete training in structured English
6 immersion as prescribed by the state board pursuant to section 15-756.09.

7 (e) If applicable, complete training in research-based systematic
8 phonics instruction as prescribed in paragraph 2 of this subsection.

9 (f) Demonstrate the required proficiency in the Constitutions of
10 the United States and Arizona as prescribed in section 15-532.

11 2. Shall require that, within three years after a certificate for
12 elementary education or early childhood education is issued, the
13 certificate holder complete, from a public or private provider, at least
14 forty-five classroom hours or three college-level credit hours, or the
15 equivalent, in both research-based:

16 (a) Science of reading instruction, including systematic phonics
17 instruction.

18 (b) Reading instruction, including training on assessments,
19 instructional practices and interventions to improve student reading
20 proficiency. Beginning July 1, 2021, instruction provided pursuant to
21 this subdivision must meet the requirements for dyslexia training
22 prescribed in section 15-219.

23 3. Beginning August 1, 2025, shall establish a literacy endorsement
24 as a requirement for all certificated teachers who provide literacy
25 instruction in kindergarten programs or in any of grades one through ~~grade~~
26 five as determined by the board. The rules shall require that a
27 certificated teacher who receives a certificate after August 1, 2025 and
28 who provides literacy instruction in kindergarten programs or in any of
29 grades one through ~~grade~~ five must obtain a literacy endorsement within
30 three years after the teacher's certificate is issued. The rules shall
31 require that a certificated teacher who received a certificate before
32 August 1, 2025 and who provides literacy instruction in kindergarten
33 programs or in any of grades one through ~~grade~~ five must obtain a literacy
34 endorsement on or before August 1, 2028. The literacy endorsement shall
35 require the teacher to complete evidence-based science of reading training
36 or coursework as determined by the board and to pass a literacy
37 instruction assessment to show that the teacher is capable of doing all of
38 the following:

39 (a) Effectively teaching foundational reading skills, phonemic
40 awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

41 (b) Implementing reading instruction using high-quality
42 instructional materials.

43 (c) Providing effective instruction and interventions for students
44 with reading deficiencies, including students with characteristics of
45 dyslexia.

1 4. Beginning August 1, 2022, shall require all approved educator
2 preparation programs in elementary education and early childhood education
3 to require the courses that are necessary to obtain a literacy endorsement
4 pursuant to paragraph 3 of this subsection.

5 5. Shall establish a process to allow a local education agency, at
6 the request of a teacher, to verify to the department of education that
7 the teacher possesses the instructional knowledge and skills prescribed in
8 paragraph 3 of this subsection, demonstrated through classroom
9 observations and student achievement data across subgroups using
10 evidence-based measures. A certificated teacher who has had a local
11 education agency verify the teacher's knowledge and skills in the science
12 of reading pursuant to this paragraph is not required to complete the
13 coursework, training or assessment requirements prescribed in paragraph 3
14 of this subsection to obtain the literacy endorsement.

15 6. Shall not require a teacher to obtain a master's degree or to
16 take any additional graduate courses as a condition of certification or
17 recertification.

18 7. Shall allow but shall not require the superintendent of a school
19 district to obtain certification from the state board of education.

20 8. Shall provide for the issuance of a subject-matter expert
21 standard teaching certificate to persons who have expertise in a content
22 area or subject matter. Persons who are certified pursuant to this
23 paragraph shall complete training, if applicable, in structured English
24 immersion as prescribed by the state board pursuant to section 15-756.09.
25 Persons who are certified pursuant to this paragraph are exempt from the
26 subject knowledge proficiency requirements prescribed in section 15-533
27 and from the proficiency requirements prescribed in section 15-532 on the
28 Constitutions of the United States and Arizona. Persons who are subject
29 to subdivision (a) of this paragraph are also exempt from the professional
30 knowledge proficiency requirements pursuant to section 15-533. A person
31 who obtains a subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate pursuant
32 to this paragraph may provide instruction in the person's field of
33 expertise in grades six through twelve at any public school in this state.
34 Issuance of the subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate may
35 not be conditioned on the person's employment with a local education
36 agency. A person who meets the requirements of this paragraph shall be
37 issued a subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate without
38 having to demonstrate professional knowledge proficiency pursuant to
39 section 15-533, except that the person shall have at least two years to
40 demonstrate professional knowledge proficiency pursuant to section 15-533.
41 School districts shall evaluate and provide support pursuant to section
42 15-537 to teachers who are certified pursuant to this paragraph. If a
43 person fails to meet the professional knowledge requirements of this
44 section within two years, the department of education or state board of
45 education may temporarily suspend the subject-matter expert standard

1 teaching certificate. A certificate that is temporarily suspended
2 pursuant to this paragraph is not considered a disciplinary action, and a
3 person shall be allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining
4 time of the subject-matter expert standard teaching certification. This
5 paragraph does not require a person who has obtained another type of
6 teaching certificate from the state board to obtain a subject-matter
7 expert standard teaching certificate pursuant to this paragraph in order
8 to provide instruction in grades six through twelve. A person is eligible
9 for a subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate pursuant to this
10 paragraph if the person has a baccalaureate degree and meets any of the
11 following requirements:

12 (a) Has taught courses relevant to a content area or subject matter
13 for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years
14 at one or more regionally or nationally accredited public or private
15 postsecondary institutions. A person demonstrates compliance with this
16 requirement by providing the state board with written proof of employment
17 for specific durations from one or more qualifying postsecondary
18 institutions.

19 (b) Has either a baccalaureate degree, a master's degree or a
20 doctoral degree in a specific subject area that is relevant to a content
21 area or subject matter taught in public schools.

22 (c) Demonstrates expertise through relevant work experience of at
23 least five years in a field that is relevant to a content area or subject
24 matter taught in public schools. A person demonstrates compliance with
25 this requirement by providing the state board with written proof of
26 employment.

27 9. Notwithstanding section 15-533, shall exempt persons applying
28 for a secondary education certificate from the subject knowledge portion
29 of the proficiency examination if the state board determines that the
30 person has work experience in science, technology, engineering or
31 mathematics and can demonstrate adequate knowledge of a particular subject
32 through a postsecondary education degree or twenty-four credit hours of
33 relevant coursework.

34 10. Shall allow for a certificate issued to a person pursuant to
35 subsection B, paragraph 1, 3, 4 or 5 of this section or section 15-203 or
36 15-782.01, as applicable, to be both issued and renewed for at least
37 twelve years and may not require more than fifteen hours of continuing
38 education credits each year in order to renew that certificate pursuant to
39 this paragraph.

40 11. Shall allow for a certificate issued to a person pursuant to
41 subsection B of this section or section 15-132, 15-203 or 15-782.01, as
42 applicable, and any endorsement or approved area related to that
43 certificate, to be renewed at least two years but not more than ten years
44 after that certificate expires without any other requirements adopted by
45 the state board of education or the department of education if the person

1 is in good standing, has at least ten years of verified full-time
2 experience in this state in the area in which the person is seeking
3 renewed certification and possesses a valid fingerprint clearance card
4 issued pursuant to section 15-534. A certificate renewed pursuant to this
5 paragraph shall be identical to the expired certificate.

6 D. The rules for certification reciprocity shall include a
7 requirement that the applicant possess a comparable valid certification
8 from another state and be in good standing with that other state. An
9 applicant who possesses a valid certification from another state and a
10 fingerprint clearance card pursuant to section 15-534 and who is in good
11 standing with that other state shall be issued a comparable standard
12 certificate or a comparable certificate issued pursuant to section 15-132,
13 15-203 or 15-782.01, as applicable, without any other requirements from
14 the state board of education or the department of education. A person who
15 is issued a certificate pursuant to this subsection is not required to
16 meet any requirement prescribed in section 15-533.

17 E. Placement decisions of teaching intern certificate holders
18 issued pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 1 of this section and section
19 15-552 shall be based on agreements between the teacher preparation
20 provider, the provider's partner organizations and the local education
21 agency. The practices of the department of education and the rules and
22 policies of the state board of education may not restrict placement of
23 teaching intern certification holders based on local education agency
24 instructional models and may only consider the academic quality of the
25 school, the effectiveness of the teaching intern certification holder's
26 on-site mentor and the opportunity for a wide variety of schools and
27 school models to access teaching intern certification holders.

28 F. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, the following
29 persons are not required to have a baccalaureate degree:

30 1. A teacher who is otherwise exempt by law from obtaining a
31 baccalaureate degree and who provides instruction in STEM or career and
32 technical education pursuant to section 15-782.01.

33 2. A person who obtains any of the following:

34 (a) A Native American language certificate.

35 (b) A student teaching intern certificate.

36 (c) A junior reserve officer training corps certificate.

37 (d) An athletic coaching certificate.

38 (e) An emergency substitute certificate.

39 (f) A SUBSTITUTE CERTIFICATE.