

Senate Engrossed

baccalaureate degrees; substitute certificates

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

# SENATE BILL 1412

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.

1 (c) Providing effective instruction and interventions for students  
2 with reading deficiencies, including students with characteristics of  
3 dyslexia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

43 11. Shall allow for a certificate issued to a person pursuant to  
44 subsection B of this section or section 15-132, 15-203 or 15-782.01, as  
45 applicable, and any endorsement or approved area related to that

1 certificate, to be renewed at least two years but not more than ten years  
2 after that certificate expires without any other requirements adopted by  
3 the state board of education or the department of education if the person  
4 is in good standing, has at least ten years of verified full-time  
5 experience in this state in the area in which the person is seeking  
6 renewed certification and possesses a valid fingerprint clearance card  
7 issued pursuant to section 15-534. A certificate renewed pursuant to this  
8 paragraph shall be identical to the expired certificate.

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

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

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

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

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

37 (a) A Native American language certificate.

38 (b) A student teaching intern certificate.

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

40 (d) An athletic coaching certificate.

41 (e) An emergency substitute certificate.

42 (f) A SUBSTITUTE CERTIFICATE.

1           Sec. 2. Department of education: substitute certificates:  
2                           waiver of certification fees

3           The department of education shall both:

4           1. Establish a process to award substitute certificates to eligible  
5 persons who received an emergency substitute certificate between from and  
6 after January 23, 2022 and the effective date of this act.

7           2. Waive certification fees for applicants who receive a substitute  
8 certificate pursuant to this section.