

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; academic standards; personal finance

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

SB 1058

Introduced by
Senator Mesnard

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-501.01 AND 15-701.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

(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; posting

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:

11 1. Standard teaching certificate.

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

14 3. Subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate for persons
15 who obtain training pursuant to subsection C, paragraph ~~8~~ 9 of this
16 section.

17 4. Classroom-based standard teaching certificate for individuals
18 who 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. SHALL ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY PERSONAL FINANCE ENDORSEMENT FOR
24 CERTIFICATED TEACHERS WHO PROVIDE PERSONAL FINANCE INSTRUCTION IN ANY OF
25 GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE.

26 ~~3.~~ 4. Beginning August 1, 2025, shall establish a literacy
27 endorsement as a requirement for all certificated teachers who provide
28 literacy instruction in kindergarten programs or in any of grades one
29 through five as determined by the board. The rules shall require that a
30 certificated teacher who receives a certificate after August 1, 2025 and
31 who provides literacy instruction in kindergarten programs or in any of
32 grades one through five must obtain a literacy endorsement within three
33 years after the teacher's certificate is issued. The rules shall require
34 that a certificated teacher who received a certificate before August 1,
35 2025 and who provides literacy instruction in kindergarten programs or in
36 any of grades one through five must obtain a literacy endorsement on or
37 before August 1, 2028. The literacy endorsement shall require the teacher
38 to complete evidence-based science of reading training or coursework as
39 determined by the board and to pass a literacy instruction assessment to
40 show that the teacher is capable of doing all of the following:

41 (a) Effectively teaching foundational reading skills, phonological
42 awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

43 (b) Implementing reading instruction using high-quality
44 instructional materials.

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

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

8 ~~5.~~ 6. Shall establish a process to allow a local education agency,
9 at 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~~ 4 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
17 ~~3~~ 4 of this subsection to obtain the literacy endorsement.

18 ~~6.~~ 7. Shall not require a teacher to obtain a master's degree or
19 to take any additional graduate courses as a condition of certification or
20 recertification.

21 ~~7.~~ 8. Shall allow but shall not require the superintendent of a
22 school district to obtain certification from the state board of education.

23 ~~8.~~ 9. 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 a 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. Persons who are
12 certificated pursuant to this paragraph shall review and attest to
13 reviewing the best practices for social media and cellular telephone use
14 between students and school personnel adopted by the state board of
15 education pursuant to section 15-203, subsection A, paragraph 44 before
16 receiving a certificate and, within two years after receiving a
17 certificate, complete training in professionalism and ethics from a public
18 or private provider approved by the state board of education, which may
19 include a no-cost option to the person provided by the state board. A
20 person is eligible for a subject-matter expert standard teaching
21 certificate pursuant to this paragraph if the person has a baccalaureate
22 degree and meets any of the following requirements:

23 (a) Has taught courses relevant to a content area or subject matter
24 for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years
25 at one or more regionally or nationally accredited public or private
26 postsecondary institutions. A person demonstrates compliance with this
27 requirement by providing the state board with written proof of employment
28 for specific durations from one or more qualifying postsecondary
29 institutions.

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

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

38 ~~9.~~ 10. Notwithstanding section 15-533, shall exempt persons
39 applying for a secondary education certificate from the subject knowledge
40 portion of the proficiency examination if the state board determines that
41 the person has work experience in science, technology, engineering or
42 mathematics and can demonstrate adequate knowledge of a particular subject
43 through a postsecondary education degree or twenty-four credit hours of
44 relevant coursework.

1 ~~10.~~ 11. Shall allow for a certificate issued to a person pursuant
2 to subsection B, paragraph 1, 3, 4 or 5 of this section or section 15-203
3 or 15-782.01, as applicable, to be both issued and renewed for at least
4 twelve years and may not require more than fifteen hours of continuing
5 education credits each year in order to renew that certificate pursuant to
6 this paragraph.

7 ~~11.~~ 12. Shall allow for a certificate issued to a person pursuant
8 to subsection B of this section or section 15-132, 15-203 or 15-782.01, as
9 applicable, and any endorsement or approved area related to that
10 certificate, to be renewed at least two years but not more than ten years
11 after that certificate expires without any other requirements adopted by
12 the state board of education or the department of education if the person
13 is in good standing and possesses a valid fingerprint clearance card
14 issued pursuant to section 15-534. A certificate renewed pursuant to this
15 paragraph shall be identical to the expired certificate.

16 D. The rules for certification reciprocity shall include a
17 requirement that the applicant possess a comparable valid certification
18 from another state and be in good standing with that other state. An
19 applicant who possesses a valid certification from another state and a
20 fingerprint clearance card pursuant to section 15-534 and who is in good
21 standing with that other state shall be issued a comparable standard
22 certificate or a comparable certificate issued pursuant to section 15-132,
23 15-203 or 15-782.01, as applicable, without any other requirements from
24 the state board of education or the department of education. A person who
25 is issued a certificate pursuant to this subsection is not required to
26 meet any requirement prescribed in section 15-533.

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

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

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

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

44 (a) A Native American language certificate.

45 (b) A student teaching intern certificate.

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

2 (d) An athletic coaching certificate.

3 (e) An emergency substitute certificate.

4 G. On or before November 15 of each year, the department of
5 education shall report and post on its website all of the following:

6 1. The total number of teaching certificates issued in the previous
7 calendar year disaggregated by the type of teaching certificate and
8 demographics.

9 2. The total number of currently issued teaching certificates in
10 this state disaggregated by the type of teaching certificate and
11 demographics.

12 3. Any other historical data or trends regarding certificated
13 individuals in this state.

14 Sec. 2. Section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
15 read:

16 15-701.01. High schools; graduation; requirements; community
17 college or university courses; transfer from
18 other schools; academic credit; report

19 A. The state board of education shall:

20 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study that incorporates the
21 academic standards adopted by the state board for the graduation of pupils
22 from high school.

23 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils
24 from high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the
25 areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. The
26 academic standards prescribed by the state board in social studies shall
27 include personal finance, American civics education and a comparative
28 discussion of political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism,
29 that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy that are
30 essential to the founding principles of the United States. ~~BEGINNING WITH~~
31 ~~THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2028, the state board may consider establishing a~~
32 ~~required~~ **SHALL REQUIRE A** separate personal finance course **THAT IS AT LEAST**
33 **ONE-HALF OF A COURSE CREDIT** for the purpose of the graduation of pupils
34 from high school. The state board shall require at least one-half of a
35 course credit in economics, ~~which shall include financial literacy and~~
36 ~~personal financial management.~~

37 3. Through the graduating class of 2025, include in the competency
38 requirements for social studies prescribed in paragraph 2 of this
39 subsection a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or
40 obtain a high school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at
41 least sixty of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is
42 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
43 United States citizenship and immigration services. Beginning with the
44 graduating class of 2026, the state board shall include in the competency
45 requirements for social studies prescribed in paragraph 2 of this

1 subsection a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or
2 obtain a high school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at
3 least seventy of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is
4 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
5 United States citizenship and immigration services. A district school or
6 charter school shall document on the pupil's transcript only a pass or
7 fail designation that the pupil has passed or failed the test required by
8 this paragraph. A pupil in grade seven or eight may take the test
9 described in this paragraph, and if the pupil correctly answers at least
10 seventy of the one hundred questions on the test:

11 (a) The district school or charter school shall document on the
12 pupil's transcript only a pass or fail designation that the pupil has
13 passed or failed the test required by this paragraph.

14 (b) The pupil is not required to take the test required by this
15 paragraph again in high school.

16 4. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741.
17 English language learners who are subject to article 3.1 of this chapter
18 are subject to the assessments prescribed in section 15-741.

19 5. BEGINNING WITH THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2028, THE STATE BOARD
20 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES PRESCRIBED
21 IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION A REQUIREMENT THAT, IN ORDER TO GRADUATE
22 FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA, A PUPIL MUST
23 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A PERSONAL FINANCE COURSE THAT INCLUDES BOTH OF THE
24 FOLLOWING:

25 (a) PERSONAL FINANCE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING BANKING, PAYING BILLS,
26 INVESTING, MANAGING CREDIT, PAYING FOR COLLEGE, BUDGETING, RETIREMENT
27 PLANNING, FINANCING HOME OWNERSHIP, FINANCING TRANSPORTATION COSTS AND
28 OTHER CONSUMER SKILLS.

29 (b) PERSONAL FINANCE SUBJECTS, INCLUDING BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS,
30 INSURANCE, TYPES OF CREDIT, TAXES AND TAX-ADVANTAGED RETIREMENT PLANS.

31 B. The governing board of a school district shall:

32 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the
33 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this
34 section.

35 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
36 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include
37 accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading, writing,
38 mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by district
39 assessment. Other criteria may include additional measures of academic
40 achievement and attendance. Pursuant to the prescribed graduation
41 requirements adopted by the state board of education, the governing board
42 may approve a rigorous computer science course that would fulfill a
43 mathematics course required for graduation from high school. The
44 governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course only if the
45 rigorous computer science course includes significant mathematics content

1 and the governing board determines the high school where the rigorous
2 computer science course is offered has sufficient capacity, infrastructure
3 and qualified staff, including competent teachers of computer science.
4 The school district governing board or charter school governing body may
5 determine the method and manner in which to administer a test that is
6 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
7 United States citizenship and immigration services. A pupil who does not
8 obtain a passing score on the test that is identical to the civics portion
9 of the naturalization test may retake the test until the pupil obtains a
10 passing score.

11 C. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
12 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school that
13 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency
14 requirements that the state board prescribes.

15 D. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for
16 the passage of pupils in courses that are required for graduation from
17 high school.

18 E. A teacher shall determine whether to pass or fail a pupil in a
19 course in high school on the basis of the competency requirements, if any
20 have been prescribed. The governing board, if it reviews the decision of
21 a teacher to pass or fail a pupil in a course in high school as provided
22 in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base its decision on the competency
23 requirements, if any have been prescribed.

24 F. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may
25 be met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects
26 at a community college or university, if the course is at a higher level
27 than the course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the
28 course is not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal
29 to or higher than the level of a high school course. The governing board
30 shall determine whether the subject matter of the community college or
31 university course is appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil
32 intends it to fulfill and whether the level of the community college or
33 university course is less than, equal to or higher than a high school
34 course, and the governing board shall award at least one-half of a
35 Carnegie unit and up to and including one Carnegie unit for each three
36 semester hours of credit that the pupil earns in an appropriate community
37 college or university course. If a pupil is not satisfied with the
38 decision of the governing board regarding the amount of credit granted or
39 the subjects for which credit is granted, the pupil may request that the
40 state board of education review the decision of the governing board, and
41 the state board shall make the final determination of the amount of credit
42 to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The governing board shall
43 not limit the number of credits that is required for high school
44 graduation and that may be met by taking community college or university
45 courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

1 1. "Community college" means an educational institution that is
2 operated by a community college district as defined in section 15-1401 or
3 a postsecondary educational institution under the jurisdiction of an
4 Indian tribe recognized by the United States department of the interior.

5 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
6 Arizona board of regents.

7 G. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided
8 with a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and
9 denied by the school district. A pupil may request to take an examination
10 in each particular course in which credit has been denied. The school
11 district shall accept the credit for each particular course in which the
12 pupil takes an examination and receives a passing score on a test designed
13 and evaluated by a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject
14 matter on which the examination is based. In addition to the above
15 requirements, the governing board of a school district may prescribe
16 requirements for the acceptance of the credits of pupils who transfer from
17 a private school.

18 H. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or
19 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school
20 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or
21 instructional programs at the charter school or school district. The
22 governing board of a school district may adopt a policy concerning the
23 application of transfer credits for the purpose of determining whether a
24 credit earned by a pupil who was previously enrolled in a school district
25 or charter school will be assigned as an elective or core credit. A
26 school district or charter school may note the learning outcomes that a
27 student mastered as prescribed in the rules adopted pursuant to section
28 15-203, subsection A, paragraph 38 to provide a record of the demonstrated
29 competencies and award partial credit.

30 I. A pupil who transfers credit from a charter school, a school
31 district or Arizona online instruction shall be provided with a list that
32 indicates which credits have been accepted as elective credits and which
33 credits have been accepted as core credits by the school district or
34 charter school. Within ten school days after receiving the list, the
35 pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in
36 which core credit has been denied. The school district or charter school
37 shall accept the credit as a core credit for each particular course in
38 which the pupil takes an examination and receives a passing score on a
39 test that is aligned to the competency requirements adopted pursuant to
40 this section and that is designed and evaluated by a teacher in the school
41 district or charter school who teaches the subject matter on which the
42 examination is based. If a pupil is enrolled in a school district or
43 charter school and that pupil also participates in Arizona online
44 instruction between May 1 and July 31, the school district or charter
45 school shall not require proof of payment as a condition of the school

1 district or charter school accepting credits earned from the online course
2 provider.

3 J. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow high
4 school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic
5 course or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject
6 without enrolling in the course or subject.

7 K. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma pursuant to article 6 of
8 this chapter are exempt from the graduation requirements prescribed in
9 this section. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma are entitled to all
10 the rights and privileges of persons who graduate with a high school
11 diploma issued pursuant to this section, including access to postsecondary
12 scholarships and other forms of student financial aid and access to all
13 forms of postsecondary education. Notwithstanding any other law, a pupil
14 who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma may elect to remain in high
15 school through grade twelve and shall not be prevented from enrolling at a
16 high school after the pupil becomes eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma.
17 A pupil who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma and who elects not to
18 pursue one of the options prescribed in section 15-792.03 may only be
19 readmitted to that high school or another high school in this state
20 pursuant to policies adopted by the school district of readmission.

21 L. Each school district and charter school shall report to the
22 department of education all of the following aggregate data, organized by
23 grade level, relating to the test that is identical to the civics portion
24 of the naturalization test used by the United States citizenship and
25 immigration services required by subsection A, paragraph 3 of this
26 section:

27 1. The median score.

28 2. The percentage of pupils who passed by correctly answering the
29 minimum number of questions required to pass the test pursuant to
30 subsection A, paragraph 3 of this section.

31 3. The percentage of pupils who failed by correctly answering fewer
32 than the minimum number of questions required to pass the test pursuant to
33 subsection A, paragraph 3 of this section.

34 4. Any other data required by the department relating to the test.

35 M. A school district or charter school may not include the
36 personally identifiable information of any pupil in the data reported to
37 the department of education under subsection L of this section. The
38 department of education shall make the data publicly available, organized
39 at a minimum by school district or charter school and grade level, on the
40 website that includes the school report cards required by section 15-746.