

REFERENCE TITLE: blindness compensatory skills; teaching certificates

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SB 1824

Introduced by
Senator Farnsworth

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-214.01; RELATING TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 2, article 1, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-214.01, to read:

4 15-214.01. Blindness compensatory skills; teacher
5 certification; rules; definitions

6 A. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT RULES TO ENSURE THAT
7 BLIND PUPILS AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS RECEIVE APPROPRIATE HIGH-QUALITY
8 BLINDNESS COMPENSATORY SKILLS INSTRUCTION THAT IS ALIGNED WITH THE
9 EXPANDED CORE CURRICULUM BY REQUIRING:

10 1. TEACHERS WHO PROVIDE ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY INSTRUCTION TO
11 BLIND PUPILS OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS TO POSSESS AND MAINTAIN EITHER:

12 (a) A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY CERTIFICATION,
13 OR AN EQUIVALENT CERTIFICATION APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

14 (b) AN ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION APPROVED
15 BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

16 2. TEACHERS WHO PROVIDE REHABILITATION INSTRUCTION OR INDEPENDENT
17 LIVING SKILLS INSTRUCTION TO BLIND PUPILS OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS TO
18 POSSESS AND MAINTAIN EITHER:

19 (a) A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION IN REHABILITATION
20 TEACHING FOR THE BLIND, OR AN EQUIVALENT CERTIFICATION APPROVED BY THE
21 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

22 (b) A VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST CERTIFICATION.

23 B. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ADOPT RULES TO IMPLEMENT THIS
24 SECTION AND SHALL PRESCRIBE DEADLINES FOR TEACHERS TO SATISFY THE
25 REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION.

26 C. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

27 1. "BLIND PUPIL" MEANS A PUPIL WHO MEETS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

28 (a) CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY USE VISION AS A PRIMARY AND EFFICIENT MODE
29 OF LEARNING.

30 (b) EXHIBITS A LOW VISUAL ACUITY OR LOW VISUAL FIELD AND, AS A
31 RESULT, DOES NOT USE VISION AS A PRIMARY MODE OF LEARNING.

32 (c) HAS A MEDICALLY INDICATED PROGNOSIS OF VISUAL DETERIORATION.

33 2. "COMPENSATORY SKILL" MEANS A SKILL THAT A BLIND PUPIL OR
34 VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPIL NEEDS TO ACCESS ALL AREAS OF THE GENERAL
35 CURRICULUM.

36 3. "EXPANDED CORE CURRICULUM" INCLUDES THE KNOWLEDGE, CONCEPTS AND
37 SKILLS THAT ARE LEARNED INCIDENTALLY BY PUPILS WHO ARE NOT BLIND PUPILS OR
38 VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS AND THAT MUST BE DIRECTLY TAUGHT TO BLIND PUPILS
39 OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS.

40 4. "ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY" MEANS THE ABILITY TO TRAVEL SAFELY
41 AND EFFECTIVELY IN AN ENVIRONMENT BY USING ALTERNATIVE BLINDNESS SKILLS.

42 5. "REHABILITATION INSTRUCTION" MEANS INSTRUCTION IN COMPENSATORY
43 SKILLS AND ACCESS TECHNOLOGY SKILLS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO PERFORM DAILY
44 LIVING ACTIVITIES.