



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Regular Session*

**AMENDED**  
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1159

teacher certification; leadership preparation programs

Purpose

Consolidates specified teaching certificates into a career and technical education (CTE) teaching certificate and standard teaching certificate. Allows a school district or charter school approved as a locally-based school leadership preparation program (leadership program) provider to approve certification of school-level leadership positions as outlined. Expands eligibility and requirement exemptions for certain teaching certificates.

Background

The State Board of Education (SBE) must adopt rules for issuing the following types of certificates that reflect the source of a teacher's training: 1) standard teaching certificate; 2) alternative teaching certificate; 3) subject-matter expert standard teaching certificate; 4) classroom-based standard teaching certificate; and 5) CTE teaching certificate ([A.R.S. § 15-501.01](#)). Certificated teachers must have a fingerprint clearance card and, subject to outlined exemptions, a baccalaureate degree. Statute prescribes requirements for training program approvals and education, experience, examination and proficiency demonstration requirements and exemptions that vary based on the type of certificate ([A.R.S. Title 15, Chapter 5](#) and [A.R.S. § 15-782.01](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

***Teaching Certificate Pathways***

1. Requires the SBE to adopt rules to consolidate the teaching certificate types that reflect the source of a teacher's training into a CTE certificate and a standard teaching certificate for teachers who use the following pathways:
  - a) traditional teacher preparation programs;
  - b) alternative teacher preparation programs;
  - c) subject-matter designation and training;
  - d) classroom-based preparation programs; and
  - e) any other SBE-adopted training or preparation pathway.
2. Expands, from 6-12 to K-12, the grades a teacher certified by meeting subject-matter designation requirements may instruct.
3. Adds a substitute teaching certificate to the certificates for which a person is exempt from the requirement that all certificated teachers have a baccalaureate degree.

4. Expands eligibility for classroom-based preparation programs by including a candidate who meets background and fingerprint clearance card requirements and:
  - a) holds an emergency teacher certification;
  - b) holds a teaching intern certificate;
  - c) holds a substitute teaching certificate;
  - d) has an associate's degree or bachelor's degree; or
  - e) is a current paraprofessional or instructional aide.
5. Requires SBE classroom-based preparation program rules to allow a school district or charter school to adopt professional expectations and professional requirements, including requiring candidates to complete specific coursework or trainings.

*School District and Charter School Leadership Programs*

6. Allows a school district or charter school to apply to the SBE to be a leadership program provider with the authority to approve the certification of principals, assistant principals, supervisors and other school-level leadership positions.
7. Allows a school district or charter school to employ and enroll, in its leadership program, any person who holds at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited postsecondary institution and meets statutory background and fingerprint clearance card requirements.
8. Requires the SBE, on a school district's or charter school's verification that leadership program requirements have been met, to issue a standard principal, assistant principal, supervisor or other school-level leadership position certificate to the individual.
9. Directs the SBE to adopt leadership program rules, policies and procedures to be administered by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) that:
  - a) facilitate the approval and certification process; and
  - b) are not more restrictive or require more than statutorily prescribed.
10. Requires SBE leadership program rules to require a certification applicant trained through a leadership preparation program to:
  - a) meet background and fingerprint clearance card requirements;
  - b) hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited postsecondary institution; and
  - c) demonstrate subject knowledge and professional knowledge requirements through any statutorily available option.
11. Requires SBE leadership program rules to require a school district or charter school to:
  - a) verify that certification applicants have made satisfactory progress in the program sequence and model; and
  - b) submit evidence supporting the efficacy of the preparation program.
12. Requires SBE leadership program rules to allow a school district or charter school to:
  - a) adopt professional expectations and requirements that exceed statutory requirements, including requiring specified coursework or trainings; and
  - b) submit, for informational purposes only, a program sequence or training schedule and information on the learning experiences, mentoring and coaching of school leader candidates.

13. Allows a school district or charter school to contract with a third party to provide or assist in the leadership preparation program and use that program's efficacy evidence to meet efficacy evidence requirements.
14. Specifies that satisfactory progress in the program sequence and model may include professional evaluations, observations, student achievement data and demonstration of competencies skills and knowledge associated with the school leadership position.

#### ***Proficiency Examination and Demonstration***

15. Expands, to apply to any SBE-issued certificate, the SBE's authority to grant a standard teaching certificate for at least three years to a teacher who has not met proficiency examination or demonstration requirements at the time of application.
16. Exempts, from the proficiency exam requirement, a person who has been in a full-time school leadership position in any state for at least three years in the same area in which the person is applying for certification.
17. Expands the reciprocity proficiency examination exemption for an applicant for an SBE-issued certificate by removing the criteria that the similarity of the corresponding examination in another state be substantial.

#### ***Miscellaneous***

18. Removes the criteria that a person seeking renewed teaching certification between 2 and 10 years after expiration have at least 10 years of verified full-time experience in Arizona in the area in which the person seeks renewed certification.
19. Requires, by November 15, ADE to annually report and post on its website:
  - a) the total number of certificated individuals in Arizona disaggregated by pathway used, type of teaching certificate and demographics; and
  - b) the number of certificates issued in the previous calendar year disaggregated by the same categories.
20. Defines *standard teaching certificate* as any teaching certificate issued to an individual by the SBE according to outlined requirements for obtaining a CTE certificate and standard teaching certificate, regardless of the individual's pathway or source of training.
21. Makes technical and conforming changes.
22. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

#### **Amendments Adopted by Committee**

1. Reverts the expanded application of the proficiency examination requirement to the existing statutory application.

2. Extends, to charter schools, the authorization for a school district to enroll in a leadership program any person who has a bachelor's degree and meets statutory background and fingerprint clearance card requirements.
3. Removes the list of specified certificate holders who a school district may enroll in a leadership program, if the person also holds a bachelor's degree.
4. Transfers, from the SBE to ADE, the requirement to annually report and post specified teacher certification information.
5. Narrows the definition of *standard teaching certificate* to a teaching certificate obtained according to the requirements for a CTE teaching certificate and standard teaching certificate.
6. Makes technical changes.

Senate Action

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Prepared by Senate Research

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