

REFERENCE TITLE: private universities; Arizona teachers academy

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2025

## **HB 2018**

Introduced by  
Representative Gress

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1655, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; APPROPRIATING MONIES;  
RELATING TO SCHOOL EMPLOYEE TRAINING.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:  
2 Section 1. Section 15-1655, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:  
4 15-1655. Arizona teachers academy; tuition and fees  
5 scholarships; fund; reporting requirements;  
6 definitions  
7 A. Eligible postsecondary institutions shall implement an Arizona  
8 teachers academy to incentivize students to enter the teaching profession  
9 and to commit to teach in Arizona public schools or for or in schools that  
10 serve primarily public school students with disabilities, which are  
11 considered public schools for the purposes of this section. The Arizona  
12 board of regents, in consultation with eligible postsecondary  
13 institutions, shall develop and implement centralized administrative  
14 processes for the academy, including:  
15 1. A marketing and promotion plan to recruit students for the  
16 academy.  
17 2. Data collection and reporting.  
18 3. Tracking postgraduation service requirements.  
19 4. Coordinating induction services.  
20 5. Distributing monies in the Arizona teachers academy fund between  
21 eligible postsecondary institutions.  
22 6. Collecting reimbursement from individuals who fail to meet  
23 service obligations.  
24 B. The Arizona teachers academy may include new or existing teacher  
25 preparation program pathways that are student-focused and that employ  
26 proven, research-based models of best practices already being implemented.  
27 Each eligible postsecondary institution may develop a portfolio of teacher  
28 preparation programs to offer as part of the academy. Each eligible  
29 postsecondary institution that admits students to the Arizona teachers  
30 academy may give priority to senior and junior students but may not  
31 exclude sophomore and ~~freshmen~~ FRESHMAN students. Programs offered as  
32 part of the academy shall include accelerated models for:  
33 1. High-demand teacher specializations, including special  
34 education, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.  
35 2. Critical need areas, including low-income public schools, public  
36 schools located on Indian reservations, rural public schools and schools  
37 that serve primarily public school students with disabilities.  
38 3. Individuals seeking postbaccalaureate coursework that results in  
39 professional certification.  
40 4. Teachers who are currently teaching a dual enrollment course to  
41 satisfy the requirements for teaching a dual enrollment course adopted by  
42 a higher learning commission that accredits degree-granting postsecondary  
43 educational institutions in the north central region, including this  
44 state.

1           5. Students in noneducation programs to complete one or more  
2 teacher preparation courses to prepare the student to receive a teaching  
3 certification following graduation.

4           C. Each eligible postsecondary institution shall develop formalized  
5 partnerships with public schools in this state to build commitments for  
6 teacher employment on completion of the Arizona teachers academy. The  
7 targeted deployment of teachers who have completed the academy shall be  
8 based on the needs of each school system and the community that is being  
9 served as well as the individual skills of each teacher.

10          D. Each eligible postsecondary institution shall provide to each  
11 student who is enrolled in the Arizona teachers academy an annual  
12 scholarship up to the actual cost of tuition and fees for a maximum of two  
13 academic years or four semesters for graduate university students, up to  
14 the actual cost of tuition and fees for a maximum of four academic years  
15 or eight semesters for undergraduate university students, up to the actual  
16 cost of tuition and fees for a maximum of two academic years or four  
17 semesters for community college students for tuition and fees associated  
18 with the student's program of study, up to the actual cost of obtaining  
19 national board certification and renewal, and up to the actual cost of  
20 obtaining a teaching certificate including the actual cost of the exam,  
21 after all other financial gifts, aid or grants received by that student or  
22 teacher. Scholarships under this subsection are subject to all of the  
23 following:

24           1. If the student does not successfully complete the academic year  
25 in good academic standing, the student shall reimburse the Arizona board  
26 of regents for the total amount of the scholarship for tuition and fees  
27 the student received for that year.

28           2. For each academic year that the student successfully completes  
29 and for which the student receives a scholarship for all tuition and fees,  
30 the student must agree to teach for one full school year in a public  
31 school in this state. For students who are teaching and receiving the  
32 scholarship concurrently, the commitment period begins after graduation  
33 from the Arizona teachers academy. For teachers WHO ARE seeking a  
34 national board certification, the teaching commitment is one additional  
35 year after completing the requirements of the national board certification  
36 program.

37           3. If a student enrolls in a summer term, that term may not be  
38 included in the calculation of the student's postgraduation public service  
39 commitment.

40           4. If the scholarship does not cover remaining tuition and fee  
41 costs after other aid received, the eligible postsecondary institution may  
42 not charge students the remaining difference. If the scholarship amount  
43 exceeds tuition and fee costs at an eligible postsecondary institution,  
44 the ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY institution may use the remaining amount to  
45 support Arizona teachers academy costs.

1           5. If the student does not fulfill the student's obligation to  
2 teach in a public school, the student must reimburse the Arizona board of  
3 regents for the proportional amount of the scholarship for tuition and  
4 fees that the student received that corresponds to the number of school  
5 years the student agreed to teach but did not teach in a public school in  
6 this state.

7           6. If the student is physically or mentally unable to fulfill the  
8 requirements of the Arizona teachers academy, the Arizona board of regents  
9 shall establish a process for assessing the student's ability to repay the  
10 financial assistance received and shall determine any terms of repayment.

11           7. The Arizona board of regents shall establish a process for  
12 deferring service or repayment based on factors adopted by the board.

13           E. The Arizona teachers academy fund is established consisting of  
14 monies deposited pursuant to section 15-1281, subsection D, paragraph 5  
15 and legislative appropriations made for the purpose of administering the  
16 Arizona teachers academy. Monies in the fund are continuously  
17 appropriated and are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating  
18 to ~~the~~ lapsing of appropriations. The Arizona board of regents shall  
19 administer the fund and shall establish criteria for distributing monies  
20 in the fund to eligible postsecondary institutions each fiscal year to  
21 fund the costs of the academy. Monies in the fund may be used only for:

22           1. Reimbursing Arizona teachers academy scholarships that cover the  
23 balance of tuition and fees for undergraduate, graduate and  
24 postbaccalaureate students **WHO ARE** enrolled in the Arizona teachers  
25 academy after all other gifts and aid received. **REIMBURSEMENT FOR AN**  
26 **ARIZONA TEACHERS ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDED TO A STUDENT BY A**  
27 **DEGREE-GRANTING PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION MAY NOT**  
28 **EXCEED THE REMAINDER OF THE AVERAGE IN-STATE TUITION AND FEES CHARGED BY**  
29 **UNIVERSITIES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS, MINUS**  
30 **OTHER GIFTS AND AID AWARDED TO THE STUDENT.**

31           2. Support for teachers who are currently employed in a public  
32 school in this state and who are seeking a national board certification.

33           3. Induction services for Arizona teachers academy graduates.

34           4. Implementing a marketing and promotion plan to recruit and  
35 retain students in the Arizona teachers academy with particular emphasis  
36 on ensuring **THAT** participants reflect the diversity of ~~the~~ **THIS** state's  
37 student population and administering the Arizona teachers academy. Annual  
38 expenditures for marketing, promoting and administering the Arizona  
39 teachers academy may not exceed three percent of the monies in the fund  
40 each fiscal year.

41           F. Monies remaining in the Arizona teachers academy fund at the end  
42 of each fiscal year may be used by eligible postsecondary institutions for  
43 Arizona teachers academy costs in the next fiscal year.

1 G. On or before March 1, ~~2020~~ and each year ~~thereafter~~, the Arizona  
2 board of regents shall report to the joint legislative budget committee  
3 and the governor's office of strategic planning and budgeting on all of  
4 the following:

5 1. The total number of students enrolled in the Arizona teachers  
6 academy by eligible postsecondary institution in the current academic  
7 year.

8 2. The number of Arizona teachers academy graduates receiving  
9 induction services in the current academic year.

10 3. The estimated amount of monies committed from the Arizona  
11 teachers academy fund in the current fiscal year.

12 H. On or before September 1 each year, the Arizona board of regents  
13 shall report to the governor, the president of the senate and the speaker  
14 of the house of representatives, and shall submit a copy to the secretary  
15 of state, on all of the following:

16 1. The total number of students enrolled in the Arizona teachers  
17 academy at each eligible postsecondary institution by year of college  
18 enrollment and the number of teachers receiving a scholarship through the  
19 Arizona teachers academy for national board certification.

20 2. The percentage of students who completed each year of the  
21 academy and who plan to continue to the subsequent year, delineated by  
22 each teacher preparation program offered by each eligible postsecondary  
23 institution as part of the Arizona teachers academy.

24 3. The number of teachers who completed a program of study through  
25 the Arizona teachers academy by each eligible postsecondary institution.

26 4. The number of teachers currently teaching in a public school in  
27 this state as part of an agreement for receiving an Arizona teachers  
28 academy scholarship.

29 5. The number of graduates receiving induction services.

30 6. The number of students who have defaulted on their obligation  
31 and who are in repayment agreements.

32 7. The number of students who have deferred repayment agreements.

33 8. The number of students who have completed repayment agreements.

34 9. The methodology for distributing any monies appropriated for the  
35 Arizona teachers academy to each eligible postsecondary institution and  
36 the amounts distributed to each.

37 10. The amount of unused monies in the Arizona teachers academy  
38 fund from the prior fiscal year.

39 I. A college in this state that is owned, operated or chartered by  
40 a qualifying Indian tribe on its own Indian reservation and that offers  
41 baccalaureate teacher education programs may participate in the Arizona  
42 teachers academy and receive monies from the Arizona teachers academy fund  
43 established by this section.

1 J. A DEGREE-GRANTING PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION  
2 IN THIS STATE THAT OFFERS POSTBACCALAUREATE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
3 THAT LEAD TO TEACHER CERTIFICATION MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE ARIZONA TEACHERS  
4 ACADEMY AND RECEIVE MONIES FROM THE ARIZONA TEACHERS ACADEMY FUND  
5 ESTABLISHED BY THIS SECTION.

6 ~~J.~~ K. For the purposes of this section:

7 1. "Eligible postsecondary ~~institutions~~ INSTITUTION" means ANY OF  
8 THE FOLLOWING: ~~universities~~

9 (a) A UNIVERSITY under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of  
10 regents. ~~,~~

11 (b) A community ~~colleges~~ COLLEGE in this state that ~~offer~~ OFFERS  
12 postbaccalaureate programs that lead to teacher certification and that  
13 ~~have~~ HAS entered into an agreement with the Arizona board of regents  
14 relative to these postbaccalaureate programs. ~~, and colleges~~

15 (c) A COLLEGE described in subsection I of this section if the  
16 college opts to participate in the Arizona teachers academy under  
17 subsection I of this section.

18 (d) A DEGREE-GRANTING PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION  
19 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION J OF THIS SECTION IF THE INSTITUTION OPTS TO  
20 PARTICIPATE IN THE ARIZONA TEACHERS ACADEMY UNDER SUBSECTION J OF THIS  
21 SECTION.

22 2. "School that serves primarily public school students with  
23 disabilities" means a school in which more than seventy-five percent of  
24 the students enrolled in the school are public school students who are  
25 placed at the school according to an agreement with a school, a charter  
26 school or the Arizona state schools for the deaf and the blind.

27 3. "Tuition and fees" means tuition, mandatory fees and program  
28 fees that are associated with a program in the Arizona teachers academy  
29 leading to teacher certification and that are charged by an eligible  
30 postsecondary institution.

31 Sec. 2. Appropriation; Arizona teachers academy fund

32 The sum of \$10,000,000 is appropriated from the state general fund  
33 in fiscal year 2025-2026 to the Arizona teachers academy fund established  
34 by section 15-1655, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act.