R7-2-604.03. Alternative Educator Preparation Programs

Professional Preparation Institutions that submit an alternative educator preparation program(s) for Board approval must adhere to R7-2-604.01 R7-2-604.04.

R7-2-604.0403. Alternative Educator Preparation Program Approval Process

Professional Preparation Institutions that submit an alternative educator preparation program(s) for Board approval must adhere to R7-2-604.02, except that individuals participating in or completing Board approved alternative educator preparation programs as delineated in this section may apply for a teaching intern certificate, pursuant to R7-2-614(E), and may complete their field experience and capstone experiences during the valid period of their teaching intern certificate.

A. An organization that includes, but is not limited to, universities under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents, community colleges in this state, private postsecondary institutions licensed by this state, charter schools, professional organizations, nonprofit organizations, private entities and regional training centers that oversee one or more educator preparation programs which wishes to offer a program for an alternative route for the certification of teachers and administrators in this State must apply to the State Board of Education on a form prescribed by the Department of Education for approval to become an approved provider of such a program. The application must include, without limitation:

1. The name and location of the applicant;
2. The name of the program;
3. If the applicant is accredited, the name of the regional accrediting body and the accreditation status of the applicant;
4. If the applicant is a private postsecondary educational institution, evidence that the applicant is licensed to operate by the State Board of Private Postsecondary Education pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3021;
5. A description of the budget of the program;
6. The areas of certification for which the applicant will offer the program;
7. A description of the program, which must include, without limitation:
   a. The way in which the elements of the program will comply with the requirements of this article section and R7-2-602, R7-2-603 as applicable and A.R.S. § 15-203(A)(14)(a)(i)-(vi);
   b. The application and review process for persons to enroll in the program, including, without limitation, a copy of all forms that will be used in the process; and
   c. The supervised, school-based experiences the applicant will provide, including, as required by R7-2-604(5), R7-2-604(7) and R7-2-604(16) including, without limitation:
      i. The name of each school and school district that will participate in the supervised, school-based experience;
      ii. The length of time for which a candidate will be required to participate in the supervised, school-based experience, including, without limitation, any orientation that the candidate must complete;
      iii. The manner by which candidates will be mentored by an effective or highly effective teacher and evaluated during the supervised, school-based experience;
      iv. How the supervised, school-based experience will promote the effectiveness of teachers and administrators, as appropriate; and
      v. A copy of all forms that will be used for the supervised, school-based experience process;
6. A list of all staff members for the program, the roles and responsibilities of each person and his or her credentials;
9. A statement of the estimated time it will take a candidate enrolled in the program to complete the program, which must allow for completion of the program within one year but not more than three years;
10. A description of the manner by which the applicant will evaluate the success or failure of each candidate enrolled in the program and track the progress of each such candidate, including a copy of all forms that will be used for the evaluation and tracking;

11. A description of how the applicant will evaluate the success of the program, which must include the information required for the evaluation pursuant to R7-2-604.02(K)(4); and

12. Any other information required by the State Board of Education.

B. Upon receipt of an application for approval as an approved provider pursuant to subsection A, the State Board of Education will appoint a review team to review the application consisting of:

1. A currently certified professional educator that is a graduate of an alternative certification program,
2. A currently certified professional administrator, a member of the business community and two members of the Certification Advisory Committee. The review team shall:
   1. Examine the application;
   2. Determine whether to recommend that the State Board of Education grant its approval of the application based upon the requirements of this article section without any additional requirements; and
   3. Submit its recommendation to the State Board of Education within 60 days of receipt of the application.

C. The State Board of Education will review the recommendation of the review team submitted pursuant to subsection B. and provide to the applicant written notice of its approval or denial. The State Board of Education may grant provisional approval to an applicant pursuant to subsection D. If the State Board of Education denies an application, the applicant may correct any deficiencies identified in the notice of denial and resubmit the application for review by the State Board of Education within 60 days of the denial.

D. If the State Board of Education grants an applicant provisional approval, the applicant may offer the program for an alternative route to certification described in the application for the period prescribed by the State Board of Education. The applicant must remove all the provisions under which the approval was issued before the expiration of the provisional approval. If the applicant removes the provisions within the prescribed time, the State Board of Education will grant nonprovisional approval to the applicant as an approved provider. Provisional approval is valid for two years after the date on which the State Board of Education granted provisional approval. If an applicant does not remove all the provisions within the prescribed time, the provisional approval is automatically revoked.

E. Except as otherwise provided in subsection D, if an applicant is approved as an approved provider pursuant to this section, the approval is valid for six years after the date of approval. To continue the approval, the qualified provider must submit an application for renewal before the expiration of the approval to the State Board of Education on a form prescribed by the Department of Education. If the application for renewal is approved by the State Board of Education, the renewal is valid for six years after the date of the approval.

F. If an approved provider intends to offer a program for an alternative route to certification for an area of certification that is different from the area of certification for which the qualified provider has been approved, the qualified provider must submit a new application pursuant to subsection A to offer a program for an alternative route to certification for that area of certification.

G. An approved provider shall provide its program completers with an institutional recommendation for issuance of the appropriate Arizona alternative path certification within 45 days. An approved provider seeking renewal of its program approval shall submit the required renewal application for review at least 90 days prior to the program expiration date.

H. Each qualified provider must submit be evaluated through a biennial report once every two years which includes:
   1. A description of any substantive changes in courses, seminars, modules or assessments in the Board approved educator preparation programs;
2. The name, title and original signature of the certification officer for the professional preparation institution; and

3. Relevant data on the educator preparation program, relevant staff, and candidates, which may include, but is not limited to, stakeholder surveys, completer data, and student achievement data required as a condition of continuing program approval.

The Department shall:

1. Present the results of the biennial report to the State Board of Education; and

2. After the results have been presented to the State Board of Education, post the biennial report on the Department’s website.

I. Each qualified provider shall cooperate with the State Board of Education and the Department in the evaluation of the effectiveness of this article.

R7-2-604.05. Revocation of approval of qualified provider: Notification of intent; requirements of exit plan.

A. The State Board of Education may revoke its approval of an approved provider if the Board determines that the program for an alternative route to certification offered by the qualified provider does not meet the applicable requirements of R7-2-604.03 this article.

B. Before the Board revokes its approval of an approved provider, the Board will notify the qualified provider of its intent to revoke approval. The notice must include the specific reasons upon which the Board is basing its decision. Not later than 30 days after the date on which the qualified provider receives the notice, the qualified provider may submit a written response to the Board which sets forth the reasons why approval should not be revoked. The Board will review the notice and any response submitted by the qualified provider and will determine whether to:

1. Revoke the approval of the qualified provider;

2. Allow the qualified provider to continue providing the program for an alternative route to certification if certain enumerated conditions are met; or

3. Allow the continued approval of the qualified provider without conditions.

C. If the Board revokes its approval of an approved provider, the qualified provider must provide an exit plan which includes, without limitation, a description of how the qualified provider will assist candidates enrolled in the program for an alternative route to certification in completing another program with a different qualified provider at no cost to the candidate.

R7-2-604.06. Classroom-Based Alternative Preparation Program Approval Process

A. A school district or charter school may apply to the Board for approval as a classroom-based alternative preparation program provider. The application, on a form prescribed by the Department, must include the following:

1. Verification that individuals to be enrolled in the program will have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution;

2. Verification that individuals to be enrolled in the program will have a valid fingerprint card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety;

3. Prior to August 1, 2020, individuals enrolled in the program possess:

   a. An emergency teaching certificate; or

   b. A teaching intern certificate

   c. Individuals enrolled at a charter school classroom-based alternative preparation program are not required to possess a certificate.

4. Data supporting the efficacy of its teacher preparation program, which may including include stakeholder surveys, completer data and student achievement data. The school district or charter school may contract with a third party provider to provide the classroom-based alternative preparation program and may use that program’s efficacy data to meet this requirement.

B. Upon successful completion of a classroom-based alternative preparation program, an individual may apply for an Arizona Classroom-Based Standard Teaching certificate with:
1. Verification of satisfactory progress and achievement with students

2. Demonstration of subject knowledge proficiency with:
   - a. Verification of teaching courses relevant to a content area or subject matter for the last two
      consecutive years, and for a total of at least three years at one or more accredited postsecondary
      institutions; or
   - b. A bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree from an accredited institution in the applicable subject
      area; or
   - c. Verification of a minimum of five years of experience in the applicable subject area of
      certification; or
   - d. Three years of verified teaching experience in the same area of certification in which the
      individual is applying for certification; or
   - e. A passing score on the applicable subject knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator
      Proficiency Assessment

3. Demonstration of professional knowledge proficiency with:
   - a. Three years of verified teaching experience in the same area of certification in which the
      individual is applying for certification; or
   - b. A passing score on the applicable professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator
      Proficiency Assessment
   - c. A valid fingerprint card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety

C. An individual seeking certification who was teaching courses or subjects tested by the
statewide assessment must also provide:
   - 1. Verified evidence of two years of full-time teaching; and
   - 2. Verified evidence that the individual’s students performed at grade level; or
   - 3. Verified evidence that the individual’s students achieved at least one year of academic growth
      at a rate equivalent to the state average for the students’ associated peer groups