Post-Degree Teacher Certification
Answering the Call – Responding to the Teacher Shortage

PPB Meeting, September 19, 2023
## Pima Presenters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tirza Sanders, MA</th>
<th>Maya Eagleton, PhD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Manager, Post-Degree Teacher Certification</td>
<td>Instructional Faculty &amp; Elementary Discipline Coordinator, Post-Degree Teacher Certification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Tirza Sanders](image1.png)

![Maya Eagleton](image2.png)
Table of Contents

Program Overview

Literacy Endorsement & Dyslexia Designee

Literacy Coursework

AEPA 190 Exam

Contact Information
PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Pima Certifications & Endorsements

- Elementary K-8 Certification
- Secondary 6-12 Certification
- Mild-Moderate K-12 Certification
- Mild-Moderate K-12 Endorsement for Certified Teachers
- Moderate-Severe K-12 Endorsement for Certified Teachers
- Structured English Immersion Endorsement (Elementary & Secondary)
- K-5 Literacy Endorsement & K-3 Dyslexia Designee (Combined Offering)
- Deficiency Removal: Phonics, Dyslexia, Ethics, AZ/US Constitutions

2021-2022 Graduates - 135 Total

- Elementary: 30%
- Secondary: 29%
- Mild-Mod Cert: 20%
- Mild-Mod Endorsement: 21%
Program At-a-Glance

- 400 Program Students
  - 8% Traditional Pathway (teach after certification)
  - 92% Alternative Pathway (teach during certification)
- Partnerships
  - 135 local schools
  - 82 schools outside the Tucson area
- Modalities
  - Online Courses
  - Hybrid Field Experiences
- Completion Timeline
  - 2-3 years
Alternative Certification

- The ADE allows teachers to teach on alternative “intern” certificates for 4 years
- To qualify for an intern certificate, prospective candidates need:
  1. Bachelor’s degree in any field from an accredited institution
  2. Passing score on AEPA subject knowledge exam in the area they will teach, or Bachelor’s degree in the subject they will teach (Elementary & Secondary)
  3. Enroll in Pima’s Post-Degree Certification Program
  4. PCC Intent to Hire Form completed by district/school HR or administration
  5. Once these are met, candidates will receive the Enrollment Letter to apply for their Alternative Certification
Completion Timelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Secondary Certificate</th>
<th>Elementary &amp; Mild-Mod Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations Courses &amp; Practicum</td>
<td>Foundations Courses &amp; Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Methods Courses &amp; Student Teaching</td>
<td>Methods Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Literacy Courses &amp; Student Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Well designed mentoring programs improve retention rates for new teachers, as well as their attitudes, feelings of efficacy, and instructional skills” (Sutcher, Darling-Hammond, & Carver-Thomas, 2019, p. 6).  
Arizona Teachers Academy (ATA)

- Program candidates who commit to teaching in an Arizona Public School upon graduation can have their tuition and fees paid using ATA funds.

- Steps:
  - Enroll in the PCC Teacher Certification Program
  - Qualify for in-state tuition
  - Complete FAFSA
  - Submit ATA Application

Question:
Is it easier to learn to read and write in German or in English?
Surprise!

For most people, German is easier to learn than English!
LITERACY ENDORSEMENT & DYSLEXIA DESIGNEE
In the past 10 years, at least 32 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws or implemented new policies related to evidence-based reading instruction.

Arizona Trends in Literacy Instruction

### 2010
**CCSS for ELA & Math**
- Arizona adopted the CCSS shortly after they were developed.
- The CCSS were controversial, primarily due to misconceptions and political polarization.
- Despite the controversy, most states have kept some version of the CCSS

### 2011
**Move On When Reading (MOWR)**
- K-3 Intervention and possible 3rd grade retention (A.R.S. 15-701)
- Screening, diagnostic instruction, progress monitoring (A.R.S. 15-704)
- Evidence-based reading curriculum (A.R.S. 15-704)

### 2016
**Modifications to our Version of the CCSS**
- Added K-3 WF strand: sound-letter basics, handwriting, cursive & spelling (Writing Foundations)
- Eliminated recommended balance of literary and informational texts
- Removed 6-12 RHST & WHST strands (Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science & Technical Subjects)

### 2021
**Early Childhood Literacy & Intervention**
- K-3 Dyslexia Designee (A.R.S. §15-211)
- K-5 Literacy Endorsement (A.R.S. §15-501.1)
In a Nutshell

ALL Arizona teachers in ALL grades and subjects especially in grades K-5 must receive training in research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels including students with dyslexia.
K-5 Literacy Endorsement (A.R.S. §15-501.1)

- All certified teachers who provide K-5 literacy instruction must earn a K-5 Literacy Endorsement (Early Childhood, Elementary, Special Education, ELD, etc.)
- Preservice teachers have until 2025; Inservice teachers have until 2028
- Teachers who already have a reading endorsement listed on their certificate are exempt
- Under rules adopted by the SBE, the Literacy Endorsement requires:
  1. 3 credits of college coursework or 45 clock hours of approved trainings in the science of reading instruction, including systematic phonics instruction; and
  2. 3 credits of college coursework or 45 clock hours of approved trainings in reading instruction, including assessments, instructional practices, and interventions to improve student reading proficiency for struggling readers, including students with the characteristics of dyslexia; and
  3. Passing score of 240 on the AEPA 190 exam (AzFOR: Arizona Foundations of Reading)
LITERACY COURSEWORK
## ADE-Approved for Literacy & Dyslexia Designee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Approx Cost/Tchr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pima Community College</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>6 credits / 90 hours</td>
<td>$600 or free with ATA*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashlock Consulting</td>
<td>For Profit</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>90 hours</td>
<td>$1,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keys to Literacy</td>
<td>For Profit</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>90 hours</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIM Institute</td>
<td>Non-Profit</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>90 hours</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific University</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>15 credits / 225 hours</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexia (LETRS)</td>
<td>For Profit</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>90+ hours (2 years)</td>
<td>???</td>
</tr>
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*Districts who enroll teachers in cohorts (30 teachers) may be eligible for ATA funding

Pima is the only provider in Arizona to combine the Literacy Endorsement and the Dyslexia Training Designee into one customized offering that is aligned with Arizona legislation and the AEPA 190 exam (PK-6).
Pima’s Literacy Coursework

- EDC 272 & ESE 272 are Pima’s ADE-approved literacy courses
- Both courses are fully online and asynchronous
- Courses are taught by highly qualified instructors, most of whom are reading specialists or special educators
- The courses prepare teachers to pass the AEPA 190 exam
- Teachers who pass both courses are also eligible for the dyslexia designee role
AEPA 190 EXAM
AEPA 190 Foundations of Reading

- At least 19 U.S. states now require a **rigorous**, stand-alone reading foundations assessment for teachers (NCTQ, 2021)
- Many states, including Arizona, use Pearson’s *Foundations of Reading* exam (e.g., Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin)
- Massachusetts is the only state that publishes passing rates on this exam:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>First-Time Test Takers</th>
<th>All Test Takers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>1,770</td>
<td>2,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60.2%</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>2,611</td>
<td>2,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71.7%</td>
<td>74%</td>
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https://www.nctq.org/yearbook/national/Teaching-Reading-90
Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure.
Scores are just starting to come in from the first groups of Pima preservice teachers who passed both literacy courses with As or Bs and took the exam for the first time.

Pima’s AEPA 190 pass rate as of September 2023:

87.5%

*We will not have test data from inservice teachers until January 2023 at the earliest, but they are predicted to score very well based on course performance thus far.
Contact Information

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