

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; braille literacy; technical correction

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
First Regular Session
2007

HB 2233

Introduced by
Representative Tobin

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-214, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; 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. Section 15-214, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-214. Braille literacy: definition

5 A. The state board of education shall adopt rules to promote braille
6 literacy that:

7 1. Assure that each blind pupil receives an individualized braille
8 literacy assessment and appropriate educational services resulting from the
9 assessment, establish standards of proficiency and instruction, provide
10 materials in a computer accessible format THAT ARE capable of braille
11 reproduction and require that certified teachers of visually impaired pupils
12 meet braille competencies as specified in this section.

13 2. Assure that, in developing the individualized written education
14 program for each blind pupil, the presumption shall be that proficiency in
15 braille is essential for that pupil to achieve satisfactory educational
16 progress. Braille instruction and use are not required by this section if,
17 in the course of developing the pupil's individualized education program, all
18 members of the team concur that the pupil's visual impairment does not affect
19 reading and writing performance commensurate with ability. Nothing in this
20 section requires the exclusive use of braille if other special education
21 services are appropriate to the pupil's educational needs. The provision of
22 other appropriate services does not preclude braille use or instruction.

23 3. Assure that instruction in braille is sufficient to enable each
24 blind pupil to communicate effectively and efficiently in all subject areas
25 with the same level of proficiency expected of the pupil's peers of
26 comparable ability and grade level. The pupil's individualized education
27 program shall specify:

28 (a) The results of a braille assessment.

29 (b) The methods by which braille will be implemented.

30 (c) The date on which braille instruction will begin.

31 (d) The length of the period of instruction and the frequency and
32 duration of each instructional session.

33 (e) The level of competency in braille to be achieved by the end of
34 the period of instruction and a description of the objective measures to be
35 used to evaluate the pupil's level of competency.

36 (f) A list of the appropriate braille materials and equipment needed
37 to allow the pupil to achieve the level of competency specified in the
38 individualized education program.

39 (g) The rationale for not providing braille if braille is not
40 determined to be an appropriate medium.

41 4. Assure that the department of education shall require all
42 publishers of textbooks to furnish the department with computer diskettes for
43 literary and nonliterary subjects when diskettes become available for
44 nonliterary subjects, in a standard format approved by the department of
45 education from which braille versions of the textbook can be produced.

1 5. Assure that teachers certified in the education of blind and
2 visually impaired pupils in this state on or after July 1, 1997 shall be
3 required to demonstrate competence in braille. Competence shall be measured
4 by either:

5 (a) Successful completion of a nationally validated test, when such a
6 test is available.

7 (b) Successful completion of a braille test developed in the program
8 in visual impairment at the university of Arizona.

9 B. As used in this section, "blind pupil" means a pupil who meets one
10 or more of the following conditions:

11 1. Cannot successfully use vision as a primary and efficient channel
12 for learning.

13 2. Exhibits such a low degree or amount of visual acuity or visual
14 field that vision is not considered as a primary mode of learning.

15 3. Has a medically indicated prognosis of visual deterioration.