



State of Arizona

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Office of the Governor
1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Main Phone: 602-542-4331
Facsimile: 602-542-7601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 16, 2010

CONTACT: Paul Senseman
(602) 542-1342
psenseman@az.gov

Governor Jan Brewer Lauds Passage of Alternative Teacher Certification Bill

Bill Referenced in the Governor's State of the State Address Signed into Law

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today praised the passage of the alternative teacher certification bill as legislation that will open the door for highly qualified professionals to enter the classroom to share individual experiences and talent with students in Arizona.

"I would like to thank Representative McComish for his leadership in expanding the search for qualified teachers and administrators beyond our traditional colleges of education," said Governor Brewer. "As I mentioned in my State of the State speech, we must never give up attracting top talent to teach our children. The doors to all qualified and skilled citizens who have the desire to teach our children must be open."

"ASBA was proud to support this important legislative effort to help place more of the best and brightest in Arizona schools," said Debbie King, President of the Arizona School Boards Association and member of the Vail School District Governing Board. "The experience and intellect these professionals will bring to the classroom will not only help students learn, but will also inspire our young people to achieve their goals and reach the level of success achieved by these new mentors."

The legislation directs the State Board of Education to adopt rules that will allow for a variety of alternative teacher and administrator preparation programs to apply for program approval. The bill, however, does establish requirements for graduates from alternative preparation programs, including holding a bachelor's degree, demonstrating professional knowledge and subject knowledge proficiency, training in structured English immersion, and proficiency in the Constitutions of the U.S. and Arizona.

The bill requires that the State Board of Education evaluate each program provider based on the program's ability to prepare teachers and administrators and to recruit those with a variety of experiences and talents.

"Across the country, education is moving from a system of defining highly-qualified teachers to highly-effective teachers," said Governor Brewer. "Under that new metric, it's unknown what kind of shortage the education field may be faced with. Therefore, it is incumbent upon education officials to widen the pool for our

principals and superintendents so that they may be able to choose the best and the brightest to inspire our youth to be successful, productive professionals of society.”

The Board recently passed new rules aligned with this legislation that will begin to pave the way for these alternative pathways. “A special thank you goes out to State Board member Jaime Molera for spearheading this initiative at the Board,” said Governor Brewer. “His continued support for education in the State of Arizona is highly commendable.”

###