

## Arizona Native American Language Teacher Certification Policies

### **R7-2-614** Other Teaching Certificates

J. Native American Language Certificate

1. The certificate is optional and issued to individuals to teach only a Native American language in grades preK-12.
2. The certificate is valid for six years and renewable by application.
3. The requirements are:
  - a. A valid IVP fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
  - b. Language proficiency in a Native American Language. Proficiency shall be verified on official letterhead by a person, persons, or entity designated by the appropriate tribe.

### **R7-2-607** General Certification Provisions

L. A teacher's language proficiency in a Native American language shall be verified by an official designated by the appropriate tribe in lieu of the 24 semester hours of courses in that subject.



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## Native American Language Teacher Certificate



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# Teaching Native Languages



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The Native American Language Certification Policy R7-2-614J was unanimously adopted by the State Board of Education on August 27, 2012 and has gone into immediate effect at the Arizona Department of Education.

The new policy allows for individuals with Native American language proficiency, whose proficiency is verified by their own tribal assessments, to apply for a Native Language Teacher Certificate at the Arizona Department of Education. Other requirements would include a finger print clearance card, an application fee and be subject to renewal requirements consistent with other teacher certificates under section R7-2-614. The policy is in effect and is anticipated as a new avenue for elders and other non-degreed language experts to teach only native language(s) to students in Arizona schools.

In 2009 the Native American Language approved area was also passed for those meeting all other requirements for a regular teaching certificate.

## NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE K-12 TEACHER CERTIFICATE

This certificate is for non-degreed language experts to teach only the Native language in which they have verified proficiency. Valid for 6 years. Must have:

- Native American language proficiency verification from participating tribal entity
- Fingerprint Clearance Card
- Certification fee
- 60 hours Professional Development for renewal

## NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE APPROVED AREA

This option adds an approved area to an existing teacher certificate for those meeting all other requirements to obtain a regular teacher certificate, such as professional teachers who also speak a Native American language at a proficient level. Must have:

- Native American language proficiency verification from a participating tribal entity
- Certification fee

## PROCESS FOR CERTIFICATION

**Step one:** Seek language (fluency) proficiency verification from a participating tribal government, usually at the tribal education department.

**Step two:** Background Check- Obtain a Finger Print Clearance Card at the Department of Public Safety or local Police department. Tribal Police departments may not offer this service.

**Step Three:** Fill out the application at the ADE Teacher Certification Unit. Turn in all three documents and the associated fee of \$60.00.

### ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TEACHER CERTIFICATION

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