

**ARIZONA NATIVE AMERICAN  
LANGUAGE TEACHER  
CERTIFICATION POLICIES**

**R7-2-625 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.
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.
4. The renewal requirements are completion of 60 clock hours in a professional development program, described in R7-2-619(B).

**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.

**Arizona Department of  
Education**

**Office of Indian Education  
1535 W. Jefferson Street  
Bin #2  
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

**Phone: 602-542-5235  
Fax: 602-542-5440**

**Arizona Department  
of Education**

**Office of Indian  
Education**

**Native American  
Language  
Teacher  
Certification**



602-542-5235





## Teaching Native Languages



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

This policy allows for individuals with Native American language proficiency, whose proficiency is verified by tribal assessments, to apply for a Native Language Teacher Certificate at (ADE). This policy is an avenue for non-degreed language experts to teach only Native languages 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 American language in which they have verified proficiency. This certificate is valid for six years.

### Requirements:

- ◆ Native American language proficiency verification from a participating tribal entity.
- ◆ IVP Fingerprint Clearance Card.
- ◆ Certification fee.
- ◆ 60 hours professional development for certificate 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.

### Requirements:

- ◆ 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:** Obtain an IVP Fingerprint Clearance Card from the Arizona Department of Public Safety or local police department. Note: Tribal police departments may not offer this service.

**Step three:** Fill out the application at the ADE Teacher Certification Unit located at 1535 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007. The Certification Counter is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Step four:** Turn in all three documents and the certification fee of \$60.

### Certification Unit:

602-542-4367 or [certification@azed.gov](mailto:certification@azed.gov)

