

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; standards; PE; art; music

State of Arizona
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HB 2557

Introduced by
Representatives Anderson, Barnes, Farley, Konopnicki, Pancrazi, Prezelski,
Thrasher, Ulmer, Senators Blendu, Flake, Gray L: Representatives Burges,
Crump, Driggs, Kavanagh, Mason, McClure, Nelson, Tobin, Yarbrough, Senator
Johnson

AN ACT

**AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701, 15-701.01 AND 15-702, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Section 15-701, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:
4 15-701. Common school; promotions; requirements; certificate;
5 supervision of eighth grades by superintendent of
6 high school district; high school admissions;
7 academic credit
8 A. The state board of education shall:
9 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in section 15-101
10 and incorporating the academic standards adopted by the state board of
11 education, to be taught in the common schools.
12 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the promotion of pupils from
13 the eighth grade and competency requirements for the promotion of pupils from
14 the third grade incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of
15 reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.
16 3. Distribute guidelines for the school districts to follow in
17 prescribing criteria for the promotion of pupils from grade to grade in the
18 common schools. These guidelines shall include recommended procedures for
19 insuring that the cultural background of a pupil is taken into consideration
20 when criteria for promotion are being applied.
21 B. Pursuant to the guidelines which the state board of education
22 distributes, the governing board of a school district shall:
23 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the
24 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.
25 **A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOT ELIMINATE OR REDUCE INSTRUCTION IN PHYSICAL**
26 **EDUCATION, ART OR MUSIC IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS**
27 **PARAGRAPH.**
28 2. Prescribe criteria for the promotion of pupils from grade to grade
29 in the common schools in the school district. These criteria shall include
30 accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading, writing,
31 mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by district
32 assessment. Other criteria may include additional measures of academic
33 achievement and attendance.
34 C. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
35 competency requirements for promotion which are in addition to or higher than
36 the course of study and competency requirements which the state board
37 prescribes.
38 D. A teacher shall determine whether to promote or retain a pupil in
39 grade in a common school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 3 on the
40 basis of the prescribed criteria. The governing board, if it reviews the
41 decision of a teacher to promote or retain a pupil in grade in a common
42 school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base its decision
43 on the prescribed criteria.
44 E. A governing board may provide and issue certificates of promotion
45 to pupils whom it promotes from the eighth grade of a common school. Such

1 certificates shall be signed by the principal or superintendent of schools.
2 Where there is no principal or superintendent of schools, the certificates
3 shall be signed by the teacher of an eighth grade. The certificates shall
4 admit the holders to any high school in the state.

5 F. A governing board may request certificates of promotion from the
6 county school superintendent. If a governing board requests these
7 certificates from the county school superintendent, the county school
8 superintendent shall furnish and sign the certificates.

9 G. Within any high school district or union high school district, the
10 superintendent of the high school district shall supervise the work of the
11 eighth grade of all schools employing no superintendent or principal.

12 H. A school district shall not deny a pupil who is between ~~the ages of~~
13 sixteen and twenty-one years **OF AGE** admission to a high school because the
14 pupil does not hold an eighth grade certificate. Governing boards shall
15 establish procedures for determining the admissibility of pupils who are
16 under sixteen years of age and who do not hold eighth grade certificates.

17 I. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow common
18 school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic course
19 or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject without
20 enrolling in the course or subject.

21 Sec. 2. Section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
22 read:

23 15-701.01. High school; graduation; requirements; community
24 college or university courses; transfer from
25 private schools; academic credit

26 A. The state board of education shall:

27 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in section 15-101
28 and incorporating the academic standards adopted by the state board of
29 education, for the graduation of pupils from high school.

30 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from
31 high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of
32 reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.

33 3. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741 for
34 the graduation of pupils from high school in at least the areas of reading,
35 writing and mathematics and shall establish passing scores for each such
36 test. ~~A pupil not successfully passing the required competency test shall~~
37 ~~graduate from high school with a recognized diploma if the pupil meets the~~
38 ~~alternative graduation requirements established by section 15-701.02.~~ A
39 pupil shall not be required to pass the competency test required in this
40 paragraph to graduate from high school if the pupil transfers into the
41 district from out-of-state and has successfully passed a statewide assessment
42 test on state adopted standards that are substantially equivalent to the
43 state board adopted academic standards.

44 B. If the state board of education adopts a competency test as a
45 graduation requirement for a child with a disability as defined in section

1 15-761 or a child who receives special education pursuant to section 15-763,
2 pupils with individualized education programs shall not be required to
3 achieve passing scores on competency tests in order to graduate from high
4 school unless the pupil is learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's
5 grade level in a specific academic area and unless passing scores on a
6 competency test ~~is~~ ARE specifically required in a specific academic area by
7 the pupil's individualized education program as mutually agreed on by the
8 pupil's parents and the pupil's individualized education program team or the
9 pupil, if the pupil is at least eighteen years of age. These competency
10 tests shall be administered to pupils in a manner prescribed in the pupil's
11 individualized education program and school districts and charter schools
12 shall make specific and appropriate accommodations for pupils with
13 individualized education programs. Pupils with section 504 plans as defined
14 in section 15-731 shall not be required to achieve passing scores on
15 competency tests in order to graduate from high school unless the pupil is
16 learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's grade level in a specific
17 academic area and unless passing scores on a competency test ~~is~~ ARE
18 specifically required in a specific academic area by the pupil's section 504
19 plan that is developed in consultation with the pupil's parents. These
20 competency tests shall be administered to pupils in a manner prescribed in
21 the pupil's section 504 plan and school districts and charter schools shall
22 make specific and appropriate accommodations for pupils with a section 504
23 plan. A pupil with an individualized education program or a section 504 plan
24 who graduates from high school but who is not required to achieve a passing
25 score on a competency test in order to graduate from high school shall
26 receive the standard diploma issued by the school district or charter school.

27 ~~B.~~ C. The governing board of a school district shall:

28 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the
29 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.
30 A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOT ELIMINATE OR REDUCE INSTRUCTION IN PHYSICAL
31 EDUCATION, ART OR MUSIC IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
32 PARAGRAPH.

33 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
34 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include accomplishment
35 of the academic standards in at least reading, writing, mathematics, science
36 and social studies, as determined by district assessment. Other criteria may
37 include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance.

38 ~~C.~~ D. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
39 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school which
40 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency
41 requirements which the state board prescribes.

42 ~~D.~~ E. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for
43 the passage of pupils in courses which are required for graduation from high
44 school.

1 ~~E.~~ F. A teacher shall determine whether to pass or fail a pupil in a
 2 course in high school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 3 on the basis
 3 of the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed. The governing
 4 board, if it reviews the decision of a teacher to pass or fail a pupil in a
 5 course in high school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base
 6 its decision on the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed.

7 ~~F.~~ G. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may
 8 be met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects at
 9 a community college or university, if the course is at a higher level than
 10 the course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the course
 11 is not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal to or
 12 higher than the level of a high school course. The governing board shall
 13 determine if the subject matter of the community college or university course
 14 is appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil intends it to fulfill
 15 and if the level of the community college or university course is less than,
 16 equal to or higher than a high school course, and the governing board shall
 17 award one-half of a carnegie unit for each three semester hours of credit the
 18 pupil earns in an appropriate community college or university course. If a
 19 pupil is not satisfied with the decision of the governing board regarding the
 20 amount of credit granted or the subjects for which credit is granted, the
 21 pupil may request that the state board of education review the decision of
 22 the governing board, and the state board shall make the final determination
 23 of the amount of credit to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The
 24 governing board shall not limit the number of credits that is required for
 25 high school graduation and that may be met by taking community college or
 26 university courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

27 1. "Community college" means an educational institution that is
 28 operated by a community college district as defined in section 15-1401 or a
 29 postsecondary educational institution under the jurisdiction of an Indian
 30 tribe recognized by the United States department of the interior.

31 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
 32 Arizona board of regents.

33 ~~G.~~ H. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided
 34 with a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied
 35 by the school district. A pupil may request to take an examination in each
 36 particular course in which credit has been denied. The school district shall
 37 accept the credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an
 38 examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by
 39 a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the
 40 examination is based. In addition to the above requirements, the governing
 41 board of a school district may prescribe requirements for the acceptance of
 42 the credits of pupils who transfer from a private school.

43 ~~H.~~ I. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow high
 44 school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic course

1 or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject without
2 enrolling in the course or subject.

3 Sec. 3. Section 15-702, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:
4 15-702. High school equivalency diploma; fees; rules

5 A. Any person who is sixteen years of age or older and who passes a
6 general educational development test shall be awarded an Arizona high school
7 equivalency diploma by the state board of education and the state
8 superintendent of public instruction. The state board of education may
9 establish eligibility requirements for persons wishing to take a general
10 educational development test, except that the minimum age required to take
11 the test may not be older than sixteen nor shall the board require the
12 completion of any high school credits.

13 B. A person who meets the minimum course of study and competency
14 requirements prescribed by the state board of education for graduation from
15 high school through a combination of high school credits and community
16 college and university credits, which are converted to high school credits in
17 the same manner as provided in section 15-701.01, subsection ~~F~~ G by the
18 governing board or the state board of education, shall be awarded an Arizona
19 high school equivalency diploma.

20 C. The state board of education may establish and collect fees for the
21 issuance and reissuance of the following:

- 22 1. A general equivalency diploma.
- 23 2. A general equivalency transcript.

24 D. The state board of education shall ~~develop~~ ADOPT rules for fee
25 waivers for the general equivalency diploma and general equivalency
26 transcripts.