

REFERENCE TITLE: high school certificate of completion

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fiftieth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2012

## **HB 2143**

Introduced by  
Representatives Miranda C: Miranda R, Saldate, Urie

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-701.01, 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 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 15-701.01. High school; graduation; requirements; community  
5 college or university courses; transfer from  
6 private schools; academic credit

7 A. The state board of education shall:

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

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

14 3. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741 for  
15 the graduation of pupils from high school in at least the areas of reading,  
16 writing and mathematics and shall establish passing scores for each such  
17 test. For the purposes of satisfying the graduation requirements of this  
18 paragraph, a minimum score as determined by the state board of education on  
19 one or more nationally recognized college entrance examinations selected by  
20 the state board of education, if examination information may be accessed at  
21 no cost to this state, may be substituted for passing scores on the Arizona  
22 instrument to measure standards test if a pupil who is in grade twelve has  
23 previously taken the Arizona instrument to measure standards test at each  
24 administration of the test. For the purposes of satisfying the graduation  
25 requirements of this paragraph, a score as determined by the state board of  
26 education on a board examination prescribed in article 6 of this chapter may  
27 be substituted for passing scores on the Arizona instrument to measure  
28 standards test if a pupil who is in grade twelve has previously taken the  
29 board examination and has not achieved the minimum score required to be  
30 eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma. A pupil shall not be required to pass  
31 the competency test required in this paragraph to graduate from high school  
32 if the pupil transfers into the district from out-of-state and has  
33 successfully passed a statewide assessment test on state adopted standards  
34 that are substantially equivalent to the state board adopted academic  
35 standards.

36 B. If the state board of education adopts a competency test as a  
37 graduation requirement for a child with a disability as defined in section  
38 15-761 or a child who receives special education pursuant to section 15-763,  
39 pupils with individualized education programs shall not be required to  
40 achieve passing scores on competency tests in order to graduate from high  
41 school unless the pupil is learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's  
42 grade level in a specific academic area and unless passing scores on a  
43 competency test are specifically required in a specific academic area by the  
44 pupil's individualized education program as mutually agreed on by the pupil's  
45 parents and the pupil's individualized education program team or the pupil,

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

19 C. The governing board of a school district shall:

20 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the  
21 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.

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

27 3. ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL TO PUPILS WHO HAVE  
28 NOT OBTAINED SUFFICIENT SCORES ON THE ARIZONA INSTRUMENT TO MEASURE STANDARDS  
29 TEST TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL IF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

30 (a) THE PUPIL HAS SATISFIED ALL THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY  
31 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE GRADUATION OF PUPILS FROM HIGH SCHOOLS  
32 IN THIS STATE.

33 (b) THE PUPIL HAS SATISFIED ALL THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY  
34 THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE GRADUATION OF PUPILS FROM  
35 THE HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

36 (c) THE PUPIL DOES NOT MEET THE ALTERNATIVE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
37 PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-701.02.

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

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

1 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 G. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may be  
8 met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects at a  
9 community college or university, if the course is at a higher level than the  
10 course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the course is  
11 not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal to or higher  
12 than the level of a high school course. The governing board shall determine  
13 if the subject matter of the community college or university course is  
14 appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil intends it to fulfill and  
15 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 H. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided with  
34 a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied by the  
35 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 I. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or  
44 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school  
45 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or instructional

1 programs at the charter school or school district. The governing board of a  
2 school district may adopt a policy concerning the application of transfer  
3 credits for the purpose of determining whether a credit earned by a pupil who  
4 was previously enrolled in a school district or charter school will be  
5 assigned as an elective or core credit.

6 J. A pupil who transfers from a charter school or school district  
7 shall be provided with a list that indicates which credits have been accepted  
8 as an elective credit and which credits have been accepted as a core credit  
9 by the school district. Within ten school days after receiving the list, a  
10 pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in which  
11 core credit has been denied. The school district shall accept the credit as  
12 a core credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an  
13 examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by  
14 a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the  
15 examination is based.

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

20 L. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma pursuant to article 6 of  
21 this chapter are exempt from the graduation requirements prescribed in this  
22 section, including the requirement that a pupil obtain passing scores on the  
23 Arizona instrument to measure standards test in order to graduate from high  
24 school. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma are entitled to all the  
25 rights and privileges of persons who graduate with a high school diploma  
26 issued pursuant to this section, including access to postsecondary  
27 scholarships and other forms of student financial aid and access to all forms  
28 of postsecondary education. Notwithstanding any other law, a pupil who is  
29 eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma may elect to remain in high school  
30 through grade twelve and shall not be prevented from enrolling at a high  
31 school after the pupil becomes eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma. A pupil  
32 who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma and who elects not to pursue one  
33 of the options prescribed in section 15-792.03 may only be readmitted to that  
34 high school or another high school in this state pursuant to policies adopted  
35 by the school district of readmission.