

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-first Legislature
First Regular Session
2013

SENATE BILL 1449

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 **AND PERSONAL**
14 **FINANCE. THIS SECTION DOES NOT ALLOW THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO**
15 **ESTABLISH A REQUIRED SEPARATE PERSONAL FINANCE COURSE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE**
16 **GRADUATION OF PUPILS FROM HIGH SCHOOL. A SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OR**
17 **CHARTER SCHOOL MAY PRESCRIBE A SEPARATE PERSONAL FINANCE COURSE FOR THE**
18 **GRADUATION OF PUPILS FROM HIGH SCHOOL THAT IS IN ADDITION TO OR HIGHER THAN**
19 **THE COURSE OF STUDY AND COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS THAT THE STATE BOARD**
20 **PRESCRIBES.**

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

41 B. If the state board of education adopts a competency test as a
42 graduation requirement for a child with a disability as defined in section
43 15-761 or a child who receives special education pursuant to section 15-763,
44 pupils with individualized education programs shall not be required to
45 achieve passing scores on competency tests in order to graduate from high

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

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

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

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

32 D. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
33 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school that
34 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency
35 requirements ~~which~~ THAT the state board prescribes.

36 E. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for the
37 passage of pupils in courses that are required for graduation from high
38 school.

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

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

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

25 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
26 Arizona board of regents.

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

37 I. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or
38 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school
39 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or instructional
40 programs at the charter school or school district. The governing board of a
41 school district may adopt a policy concerning the application of transfer
42 credits for the purpose of determining whether a credit earned by a pupil who
43 was previously enrolled in a school district or charter school will be
44 assigned as an elective or core credit.

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

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

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