

REFERENCE TITLE: computer science courses; math credit.

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-first Legislature
Second Regular Session
2014

HB 2265

Introduced by
Representatives Forese, Gallego

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701.01 AND 15-1626, 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. The academic
14 standards prescribed by the state board of education in social studies shall
15 include personal finance. This paragraph does not allow the state board of
16 education to establish a required separate personal finance course for the
17 purpose of the graduation of pupils from high school.
18 3. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741.
19 English language learners who are subject to article 3.1 of this chapter are
20 subject to the assessments prescribed in section 15-741.
21 B. The governing board of a school district shall:
22 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the
23 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.
24 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
25 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include accomplishment
26 of the academic standards in at least reading, writing, mathematics, science
27 and social studies, as determined by district assessment. **THE GOVERNING**
28 **BOARD MAY APPROVE A RIGOROUS COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE THAT WOULD FULFILL ONE**
29 **OF THE MATHEMATICS COURSES REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL.** Other
30 criteria may include additional measures of academic achievement and
31 attendance.
32 C. 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 that the state board prescribes.
36 D. 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 E. 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 4 on the basis
41 of the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed. The governing
42 board, if it reviews the decision of a teacher to pass or fail a pupil in a
43 course in high school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base
44 its decision on the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed.

1 F. 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 G. 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 H. 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 I. 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 J. 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 K. 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. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma are entitled to all the
18 rights and privileges of persons who graduate with a high school diploma
19 issued pursuant to this section, including access to postsecondary
20 scholarships and other forms of student financial aid and access to all forms
21 of postsecondary education. Notwithstanding any other law, a pupil who is
22 eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma may elect to remain in high school
23 through grade twelve and shall not be prevented from enrolling at a high
24 school after the pupil becomes eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma. A pupil
25 who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma and who elects not to pursue one
26 of the options prescribed in section 15-792.03 may only be readmitted to that
27 high school or another high school in this state pursuant to policies adopted
28 by the school district of readmission.

29 Sec. 2. Section 15-1626, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:
30 15-1626. General administrative powers and duties of board;
31 definition

32 A. The board shall:

33 1. Have and exercise the powers necessary for the effective governance
34 and administration of the institutions under its control. To that end, the
35 board may adopt, and authorize each university to adopt, such regulations,
36 policies, rules or measures as are deemed necessary and may delegate in
37 writing to its committees, to its university presidents, or their designees,
38 or to other entities under its control, any part of its authority for the
39 administration and governance of such institutions, including those powers
40 enumerated in section 15-1625, subsection B, paragraphs 2 and 4, paragraphs
41 3, 4, 8, 9, 11 and 12 of this subsection and subsection B of this section.
42 Any delegation of authority may be rescinded by the board at any time in
43 whole or in part.

1 2. Appoint and employ and determine the compensation of presidents
2 with such power and authority and for such purposes in connection with the
3 operation of the institutions as the board deems necessary.

4 3. Appoint and employ and determine the compensation of
5 vice-presidents, deans, professors, instructors, lecturers, fellows and such
6 other officers and employees with such power and authority and for such
7 purposes in connection with the operation of the institutions as the board
8 deems necessary, or delegate its authority pursuant to paragraph 1 of this
9 subsection.

10 4. Remove any officer or employee when the interests of education in
11 this state so require in accordance with its personnel rules and policies.

12 5. Fix tuitions and fees to be charged and differentiate the tuitions
13 and fees between institutions and between residents, nonresidents,
14 undergraduate students, graduate students, students from foreign countries
15 and students who have earned credit hours in excess of the credit hour
16 threshold. For the purposes of this paragraph, the undergraduate credit hour
17 threshold is one hundred forty-five hours for students who attend a
18 university under the jurisdiction of the board. The undergraduate credit
19 hour threshold shall be based on the actual full-time equivalent student
20 enrollment counted on the forty-fifth day of every fall and spring semester,
21 divided by two, and any budget adjustment based on student enrollment shall
22 occur in the fiscal year following the actual full-time equivalent student
23 enrollment count. The undergraduate credit hour threshold shall not apply to
24 degree programs that require credit hours above the credit hour threshold,
25 credits earned in the pursuit of up to two baccalaureate degrees, credits
26 earned in the pursuit of up to two state regulated licensures or
27 certificates, credits earned in the pursuit of teaching certification,
28 credits transferred from a private institution of higher education, credits
29 transferred from an institution of higher education in another state, credits
30 earned at another institution of higher education but that are not accepted
31 as transfer credits at the university where the student is currently enrolled
32 and credits earned by students who enroll at a university under the
33 jurisdiction of the board more than twenty-four months after the end of that
34 student's previous enrollment at a public institution of higher education in
35 this state. On or before October 15 of each year, the board shall report to
36 the joint legislative budget committee the number of in-state students and
37 out-of-state students who were enrolled at universities under the
38 jurisdiction of the board during the previous fiscal year who met or exceeded
39 the undergraduate credit hour threshold prescribed in this paragraph. The
40 amount of tuition, registration fees and other revenues included in the
41 operating budget for the university adopted by the board as prescribed in
42 paragraph 13 of this subsection shall be deposited, pursuant to sections
43 35-146 and 35-147. All other tuition and fee revenue shall be retained by
44 each university for expenditure as approved by the board, except that the

1 universities shall not use any tuition or fee revenue to fund or support an
2 alumni association.

3 6. Except as provided in subsection I of this section, adopt rules to
4 govern its tuition and fee setting process that provide for the following:

5 (a) At least one public hearing at each university as an opportunity
6 for students and members of the public to comment on any proposed increase in
7 tuition or fees.

8 (b) Publication of the notice of public hearing at least ten days
9 prior to the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in Maricopa
10 county, Coconino county and Pima county. The notice shall include the date,
11 time and location of the public hearing.

12 (c) Public disclosure by each university of any proposed increases in
13 tuition or fees at least ten days prior to the public hearing.

14 (d) Final board action on changes in tuition or fees shall be taken by
15 roll call vote.

16 The procedural requirements of subdivisions (a), (b), (c) and (d) of this
17 paragraph apply only to those changes in tuition or fees that require board
18 approval.

19 7. Pursuant to section 35-115, submit a budget request for each
20 institution under its jurisdiction that includes the estimated tuition and
21 fee revenue available to support the programs of the institution as described
22 in the budget request. The estimated available tuition and fee revenue shall
23 be based on the tuition and registration fee rates in effect at the time the
24 budget request is submitted with adjustments for projected changes in
25 enrollment as provided by the board.

26 8. Establish curriculums and designate courses at the several
27 institutions that in its judgment will best serve the interests of this
28 state.

29 9. Award such degrees and diplomas on the completion of such courses
30 and curriculum requirements as it deems appropriate.

31 10. Prescribe qualifications for admission of all students to the
32 universities. **THE BOARD SHALL ALLOW A RIGOROUS COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE THAT**
33 **WAS APPROVED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION**
34 **15-701.01 TO FULFILL ONE OF THE MATHEMATICS COURSES REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION.**
35 The board shall establish policies for guaranteed admission that assure fair
36 and equitable access to students in this state from public, private and
37 charter schools and homeschools. For the purpose of determining the
38 qualifications of honorably discharged veterans, veterans are those persons
39 who served in the armed forces for a minimum of two years and who were
40 previously enrolled at a university or community college in this state. No
41 prior failing grades received by the veteran at the university or community
42 college in this state may be considered.

43 11. Adopt any energy conservation standards promulgated by the
44 department of administration for the construction of new buildings.

1 12. Employ for such time and purposes as the board requires attorneys
2 whose compensation shall be fixed and paid by the board. Litigation to which
3 the board is a party and for which self-insurance is not provided may be
4 compromised or settled at the direction of the board.

5 13. Adopt annually an operating budget for each university equal to the
6 sum of appropriated general fund monies and the amount of tuition,
7 registration fees and other revenues approved by the board and allocated to
8 each university operating budget.

9 14. In consultation with the state board of education and other
10 education groups, develop and implement a program to award honors
11 endorsements to be affixed to the high school diplomas of qualifying high
12 school pupils and to be included in the transcripts of pupils who are awarded
13 endorsements. The board shall develop application procedures and testing
14 criteria and adopt testing instruments and procedures to administer the
15 program. In order to receive an honors endorsement, a pupil must demonstrate
16 an extraordinary level of knowledge, skill and competency as measured by the
17 testing instruments adopted by the board in mathematics, English, science and
18 social studies. Additional subjects may be added at the determination of the
19 board. The program is voluntary for pupils.

20 15. Require the publisher of each literary and nonliterary textbook
21 used in the universities of this state to furnish computer software in a
22 standardized format when software becomes available for nonliterary textbooks
23 to the Arizona board of regents from which braille versions of the textbooks
24 may be produced.

25 16. Require universities that provide a degree in education to require
26 courses that are necessary to obtain a provisional structured English
27 immersion endorsement as prescribed by the state board of education.

28 17. Acquire United States flags for each classroom that are
29 manufactured in the United States and that are at least two feet by three
30 feet and hardware to appropriately display the United States flags, acquire a
31 legible copy of the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights,
32 display the flags in each classroom in accordance with title 4 of the United
33 States Code and display a legible copy of the Constitution of the United
34 States and the Bill of Rights adjacent to the flag.

35 18. To facilitate the transfer of military personnel and their
36 dependents to and from the public schools of this state, pursue, in
37 cooperation with the state board of education, reciprocity agreements with
38 other states concerning the transfer credits for military personnel and their
39 dependents. A reciprocity agreement entered into pursuant to this paragraph
40 shall:

41 (a) Address procedures for each of the following:

42 (i) The transfer of student records.

43 (ii) Awarding credit for completed ~~course-work~~ COURSEWORK.

1 (iii) Permitting a student to satisfy the graduation requirements
2 prescribed in section 15-701.01 through the successful performance on
3 comparable exit-level assessment instruments administered in another state.

4 (b) Include appropriate criteria developed by the state board of
5 education and the Arizona board of regents.

6 19. Require a university to publicly post notices of all of its
7 employment openings, including the title and description, instructions for
8 applying and relevant contact information.

9 20. In consultation with the community college districts in this state,
10 develop and implement common equivalencies for specific levels of achievement
11 on advanced placement examinations and international baccalaureate
12 examinations in order to award commensurate postsecondary academic credits at
13 community colleges and public universities in this state.

14 21. On or before August 1 of each year, report to the joint legislative
15 budget committee the graduation rate by university campus during the previous
16 fiscal year. The board shall also report the retention rate by university
17 campus and by class, as determined by date of entry during the previous
18 fiscal year.

19 B. The board shall adopt personnel policies for all employees of the
20 board and the universities.

21 C. In conjunction with the auditor general, the board shall develop a
22 uniform accounting and reporting system, which shall be reviewed by the joint
23 legislative budget committee before final adoption by the board. The board
24 shall require each university to comply with the uniform accounting and
25 reporting system.

26 D. The board may employ legal assistance in procuring loans for the
27 institutions from the United States government. Fees or compensation paid
28 for such legal assistance shall not be a claim on the general fund of this
29 state but shall be paid from funds of the institutions.

30 E. The board shall approve or disapprove any contract or agreement
31 entered into by the university of Arizona hospital with the Arizona health
32 facilities authority.

33 F. The board may adopt policies that authorize the institutions under
34 its jurisdiction to enter into employment contracts with nontenured employees
35 for periods of more than one year but not more than five years. The policies
36 shall prescribe limitations on the authority of the institutions to enter
37 into employment contracts for periods of more than one year but not more than
38 five years, including the requirement that the board approve the contracts.

39 G. The board may adopt a plan or plans for employee benefits that
40 allow for participation in a cafeteria plan that meets the requirements of
41 the United States internal revenue code of 1986.

42 H. The board may establish a program for the exchange of students
43 between the universities under the jurisdiction of the board and colleges and
44 universities located in the state of Sonora, Mexico. Notwithstanding
45 subsection A, paragraph 5 of this section, the program may provide for

1 in-state tuition at the universities under the jurisdiction of the board for
2 fifty Sonoran students in exchange for similar tuition provisions for up to
3 fifty Arizona students enrolled or seeking enrollment in Sonoran colleges or
4 universities. The board may direct the universities to work in conjunction
5 with the Arizona-Mexico commission to coordinate recruitment and admissions
6 activities.

7 I. Subsection A, paragraph 6, subdivisions (a), (b), (c) and (d) of
8 this section do not apply to fee increases that are set by individual
9 universities and that do not require approval by the Arizona board of regents
10 before the fee increase becomes effective.

11 J. ~~On or before July 1, 2012,~~ The Arizona board of regents, in
12 collaboration with the universities under its jurisdiction, shall adopt a
13 performance funding model. The performance funding model shall use
14 performance metrics that include the increase in degrees awarded, the
15 increase in completed student credit hours and the increase in externally
16 generated research and public service funding. The funding formula may give
17 added weight to degrees related to science, technology, engineering and
18 mathematics and other high-value degrees that are in short supply or that are
19 essential to this state's long-term economic development strategy.

20 K. The Arizona board of regents shall use the performance funding
21 model adopted pursuant to subsection J of this section in developing and
22 submitting budget requests for the universities under its jurisdiction.

23 L. On or before November 1 of each year, the Arizona board of regents
24 shall submit to the joint legislative budget committee and the governor's
25 office of strategic planning and budgeting a report on university debt and
26 obligations, including:

- 27 1. Long-term notes and obligations.
- 28 2. Certificates of participation and other obligations pursuant to any
29 lease-purchase agreements.
- 30 3. Revenue bonds.
- 31 4. Bonds issued pursuant to section 15-1682.03.

32 M. The report issued pursuant to subsection L of this section shall
33 contain, for the most recent fiscal year:

- 34 1. The aggregate level of outstanding principal and the principal and
35 interest payments, by type of debt or obligation.
- 36 2. An itemization, by campus and project, of the amount of yearly
37 principal and interest to be paid in the most recent and the next five fiscal
38 years.

39 N. For the purposes of this section, "university debt and obligations"
40 means debt and obligations, the principal and interest of which are paid in
41 whole or in part with university monies.