

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; academic credit; online courses

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SB 1107

Introduced by
Senator Worsley; Representative Thorpe; Senators Crandell, Farnsworth D,
McComish, Melvin, Pierce; Representatives Brophy McGee, Coleman,
Montenegro, Petersen

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. 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. Other criteria may
28 include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance.

29 C. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
30 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school that
31 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency
32 requirements that the state board prescribes.

33 D. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for the
34 passage of pupils in courses that are required for graduation from high
35 school.

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

42 F. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may be
43 met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects at a
44 community college or university, if the course is at a higher level than the
45 course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the course is

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

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

21 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
22 Arizona board of regents.

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

33 H. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or
34 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school
35 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or instructional
36 programs at the charter school or school district. **IF A PUPIL IS ENROLLED
37 FULL TIME IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL AND CONCURRENTLY TAKES ONE
38 OR MORE COURSES ONLINE FROM AN ACCREDITED POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION, THE
39 SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL ACCEPT THE COURSE CREDITS EARNED BY
40 THE PUPIL AT THE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IF THE PUPIL ACHIEVES A PASSING
41 SCORE ON AN END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT ADMINISTERED BY AN EDUCATION PROVIDER
42 OTHER THAN THE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION THAT PROVIDED THE ONLINE CLASS OR
43 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL WHERE THE PUPIL IS ENROLLED. PURSUANT
44 TO THIS SUBSECTION,** the governing board of a school district may adopt a
45 policy concerning the application of transfer credits for the purpose of

1 determining whether a credit earned by a pupil who was previously enrolled in
2 a school district or charter school **OR WHO CONCURRENTLY TAKES ONE OR MORE**
3 **COURSES ONLINE FROM AN ACCREDITED POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION** will be assigned
4 as an elective or core credit.

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

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

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