

REFERENCE TITLE: **schools; financial education; course requirements**

State of Arizona
Senate
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2015

SB 1405

Introduced by
Senators Yee: Begay

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701.01 AND 15-720.02, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL CURRICULA.

(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. Pursuant
29 to the prescribed graduation requirements adopted by the state board of
30 education, the governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course
31 that would fulfill a mathematics course required for graduation from high
32 school. The governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course
33 only if the rigorous computer science course includes significant mathematics
34 content and the governing board determines the high school where the rigorous
35 computer science course is offered has sufficient capacity, infrastructure
36 and qualified staff, including competent teachers of computer science.

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

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

44 E. A teacher shall determine whether to pass or fail a pupil in a
45 course in high school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 4 on the basis

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

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

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

29 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
30 Arizona board of regents.

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

41 H. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or
42 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school
43 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or instructional
44 programs at the charter school or school district. The governing board of a
45 school district may adopt a policy concerning the application of transfer

1 credits for the purpose of determining whether a credit earned by a pupil who
 2 was previously enrolled in a school district or charter school will be
 3 assigned as an elective or core credit.

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

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

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

32 Sec. 2. Section 15-720.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
 33 read:

34 15-720.02. Instruction on personal finance in high schools

35 ~~A. A school district governing board or charter school may prescribe a~~
 36 ~~separate personal finance course for the graduation of pupils from high~~
 37 ~~school or incorporate personal finance instruction into an existing course or~~
 38 ~~existing curricula for the graduation of pupils from high school, that is in~~
 39 ~~addition to or higher than the course of study and competency requirements~~
 40 ~~that the state board of education prescribes for the graduation of pupils.~~

41 ~~B. A. If a personal finance course is prescribed by a school district~~
 42 ~~governing board or charter school or if personal finance instruction is~~
 43 ~~incorporated into an existing course or existing curricula, THE STATE BOARD~~
 44 ~~OF EDUCATION SHALL PRESCRIBE A SEPARATE PERSONAL FINANCE COURSE FOR THE~~
 45 ~~GRADUATION OF PUPILS FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND DEVELOP OR ADOPT AN EXISTING METHOD~~

1 OF MEASURING PROFICIENCY IN THE COURSE REQUIREMENT. The course ~~or~~
2 ~~incorporated instruction~~ shall include the following:
3 1. Explanations on how education, career choices and family
4 obligations affect future income.
5 2. Analyses of how advertising influences consumer choices.
6 3. The determination of short-term and long-term financial goals and
7 plans, including income, spending, saving and investing.
8 4. Comparisons of the advantages and disadvantages of using various
9 forms of credit ~~and the determining factors of credit history~~.
10 5. THE DETERMINING FACTORS OF A CREDIT SCORE AND THE CONTENTS OF A
11 CREDIT REPORT.
12 ~~5.~~ 6. Explanations of the risk, return and liquidity of short-term
13 and long-term saving and investment choices.
14 ~~6.~~ 7. Identification of investment options available to individuals
15 and households.
16 8. THE REVIEW AND PREPARATION OF PERSONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.
17 9. THE PREPARATION OF A PERSONAL BUDGET.
18 10. COLLEGE FUNDING RESOURCES.
19 11. AN INTRODUCTION TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP.
20 ~~6.~~ B. A school district governing board or charter school may develop
21 its own curriculum on personal finance or may use a curriculum on personal
22 finance that is currently used by other public schools in this state or by
23 public schools in other states. A school district governing board or charter
24 school may use curriculum on personal finance developed by or in conjunction
25 with an organization with expertise in providing instruction to high school
26 pupils on personal finance skills.