

REFERENCE TITLE: Arizona online instruction; transfer credits.

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-second Legislature
Second Regular Session
2016

SB 1287

Introduced by
Senator Allen S

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-701.01, 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. Beginning in the
18 2016-2017 school year, the competency requirements for social studies shall
19 include a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or obtain a
20 high school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at least sixty
21 of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is identical to the civics
22 portion of the naturalization test used by the United States citizenship and
23 immigration services. A district school or charter school shall document on
24 the pupil's transcript that the pupil has passed a test that is identical to
25 the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States
26 citizenship and immigration services as required by this section.

27 3. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741.
28 English language learners who are subject to article 3.1 of this chapter are
29 subject to the assessments prescribed in section 15-741.

30 B. The governing board of a school district shall:

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

33 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
34 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include accomplishment
35 of the academic standards in at least reading, writing, mathematics, science
36 and social studies, as determined by district assessment. Other criteria may
37 include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance. Pursuant
38 to the prescribed graduation requirements adopted by the state board of
39 education, the governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course
40 that would fulfill a mathematics course required for graduation from high
41 school. The governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course
42 only if the rigorous computer science course includes significant mathematics
43 content and the governing board determines the high school where the rigorous
44 computer science course is offered has sufficient capacity, infrastructure

1 and qualified staff, including competent teachers of computer science. The
2 school district governing board or charter school governing body may
3 determine the method and manner in which to administer a test that is
4 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United
5 States citizenship and immigration services. A pupil who does not obtain a
6 passing score on the test that is identical to the civics portion of the
7 naturalization test may retake the test until the pupil obtains a passing
8 score.

9 C. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
10 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school that
11 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency
12 requirements that the state board prescribes.

13 D. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for the
14 passage of pupils in courses that are required for graduation from high
15 school.

16 E. A teacher shall determine whether to pass or fail a pupil in a
17 course in high school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 4 on the basis
18 of the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed. The governing
19 board, if it reviews the decision of a teacher to pass or fail a pupil in a
20 course in high school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base
21 its decision on the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed.

22 F. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may be
23 met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects at a
24 community college or university, if the course is at a higher level than the
25 course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the course is
26 not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal to or higher
27 than the level of a high school course. The governing board shall determine
28 if the subject matter of the community college or university course is
29 appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil intends it to fulfill and
30 if the level of the community college or university course is less than,
31 equal to or higher than a high school course, and the governing board shall
32 award one-half of a carnegie unit for each three semester hours of credit the
33 pupil earns in an appropriate community college or university course. If a
34 pupil is not satisfied with the decision of the governing board regarding the
35 amount of credit granted or the subjects for which credit is granted, the
36 pupil may request that the state board of education review the decision of
37 the governing board, and the state board shall make the final determination
38 of the amount of credit to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The
39 governing board shall not limit the number of credits that is required for
40 high school graduation and that may be met by taking community college or
41 university courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

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

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

3 G. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided with
4 a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied by the
5 school district. A pupil may request to take an examination in each
6 particular course in which credit has been denied. The school district shall
7 accept the 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. In addition to the above requirements, the governing
11 board of a school district may prescribe requirements for the acceptance of
12 the credits of pupils who transfer from a private school.

13 H. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or
14 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school
15 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or instructional
16 programs at the charter school or school district. The governing board of a
17 school district may adopt a policy concerning the application of transfer
18 credits for the purpose of determining whether a credit earned by a pupil who
19 was previously enrolled in a school district or charter school will be
20 assigned as an elective or core credit.

21 I. A pupil who transfers credit from a charter school **IN ANOTHER**
22 **STATE, A** school district **IN ANOTHER STATE** or Arizona online instruction **THAT**
23 **IS NOT REGIONALLY ACCREDITED OR FOR A COURSE THAT IS OTHERWISE NOT ALIGNED TO**
24 **THE COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT**
25 **TO THIS SECTION** shall be provided with a list that indicates which credits
26 have been accepted as an elective credit and which credits have been accepted
27 as a core credit by the school district or charter school. Within ten school
28 days after receiving the list, ~~a~~ **THE** pupil may request to take an
29 examination in each particular course in which core credit has been denied.
30 The school district or charter school shall accept the credit as a core
31 credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an examination and
32 receives a passing score on a test, ~~THAT IS~~ **THAT IS** aligned to the competency
33 requirements adopted pursuant to this section, ~~AND THAT IS~~ **AND THAT IS** designed and
34 evaluated by a teacher in the school district or charter school who teaches
35 the subject matter on which the examination is based. If a pupil is enrolled
36 in a school district or charter school and that pupil also participates in
37 Arizona online instruction between May 1 and July 31, the school district or
38 charter school shall not require proof of payment as a condition of the
39 school district or charter school accepting credits earned from the online
40 course provider.

41 **J. A PUPIL WHO TRANSFERS CREDIT FROM A CHARTER SCHOOL IN THIS STATE, A**
42 **SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE OR REGIONALLY ACCREDITED ARIZONA ONLINE**
43 **INSTRUCTION SHALL BE AWARDED CORE CREDIT FOR ANY CORE CREDIT COURSE COMPLETED**
44 **AT THE CHARTER SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT OR THROUGH THE ONLINE INSTRUCTION**
45 **AND ELECTIVE CREDIT FOR ANY ELECTIVE COURSE COMPLETED AT THE CHARTER SCHOOL**

1 OR SCHOOL DISTRICT OR THROUGH THE ONLINE INSTRUCTION IF THAT COURSE IS
2 ALIGNED TO THE COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF
3 EDUCATION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

4 ~~J.~~ K. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow high
5 school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic course
6 or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject without
7 enrolling in the course or subject.

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

22 M. A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY NOT CHARGE A FEE TO A PUPIL WHO TAKES AN
23 EXAMINATION IN A PARTICULAR COURSE TO OBTAIN ACADEMIC CREDIT FROM THE SCHOOL
24 DISTRICT IF THE ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR A SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT COURSE WAS
25 PREVIOUSLY EARNED IN ARIZONA ONLINE INSTRUCTION. ANY TEST ADMINISTERED
26 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE AN END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT THAT IS
27 ALIGNED TO STATE ACADEMIC STANDARDS.