

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-second Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2015

**CHAPTER 1**  
**HOUSE BILL 2064**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701.01 AND 15-763, 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  
45 and qualified staff, including competent teachers of computer science. **THE**  
46 **SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OR CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY MAY**

1 DETERMINE THE METHOD AND MANNER IN WHICH TO ADMINISTER A TEST THAT IS  
2 IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY THE UNITED  
3 STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES. A PUPIL WHO DOES NOT OBTAIN A  
4 PASSING SCORE ON THE TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE  
5 NATURALIZATION TEST MAY RETAKE THE TEST UNTIL THE PUPIL OBTAINS A PASSING  
6 SCORE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           G. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided with  
2 a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied by the  
3 school district. A pupil may request to take an examination in each  
4 particular course in which credit has been denied. The school district shall  
5 accept the credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an  
6 examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by  
7 a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the  
8 examination is based. In addition to the above requirements, the governing  
9 board of a school district may prescribe requirements for the acceptance of  
10 the credits of pupils who transfer from a private school.

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

19           I. A pupil who transfers from a charter school or school district  
20 shall be provided with a list that indicates which credits have been accepted  
21 as an elective credit and which credits have been accepted as a core credit  
22 by the school district. Within ten school days after receiving the list, a  
23 pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in which  
24 core credit has been denied. The school district shall accept the credit as  
25 a core credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an  
26 examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by  
27 a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the  
28 examination is based.

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

33           K. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma pursuant to article 6 of  
34 this chapter are exempt from the graduation requirements prescribed in this  
35 section. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma are entitled to all the  
36 rights and privileges of persons who graduate with a high school diploma  
37 issued pursuant to this section, including access to postsecondary  
38 scholarships and other forms of student financial aid and access to all forms  
39 of postsecondary education. Notwithstanding any other law, a pupil who is  
40 eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma may elect to remain in high school  
41 through grade twelve and shall not be prevented from enrolling at a high  
42 school after the pupil becomes eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma. A pupil  
43 who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma and who elects not to pursue one  
44 of the options prescribed in section 15-792.03 may only be readmitted to that  
45 high school or another high school in this state pursuant to policies adopted  
46 by the school district of readmission.

1           Sec. 2. Section 15-763, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:  
2           15-763. Plan for providing special education: definition

3           A. All school districts and charter schools shall develop policies and  
4 procedures for providing special education to all children with disabilities  
5 within the district or charter school. All children with disabilities shall  
6 receive special education programming commensurate with their abilities and  
7 needs. Each child shall be ensured access to the general curriculum and an  
8 opportunity to meet the state's academic standards. Pupils who receive  
9 special education shall not be required to achieve passing scores on the  
10 Arizona instrument to measure standards test OR THE TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO  
11 THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST UNDER SECTION 15-701.01 in  
12 order to graduate from high school unless the pupil is learning at a level  
13 appropriate for the pupil's grade level in a specific academic area and  
14 unless a passing score on the Arizona instrument to measure standards test OR  
15 THE TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST  
16 UNDER SECTION 15-701.01 is specifically required in a specific academic area  
17 by the pupil's individualized education program as mutually agreed on by the  
18 pupil's parents and the pupil's individualized education program team or the  
19 pupil, if the pupil is at least eighteen years of age. The pupil's  
20 individualized education program shall include any necessary testing  
21 accommodations. Special education services shall be provided at no cost to  
22 the parents of children with disabilities.

23           B. The state board of education shall adopt guidelines to define a  
24 parent's or guardian's role or a pupil's role, if the pupil is at least  
25 eighteen years of age, in the development of a pupil's section 504 plan as  
26 defined in section 15-731, including testing and testing accommodations.

27           C. For the purposes of determining the services to pupils served by  
28 private schools under existing federal law, the state shall consider the term  
29 to include homeschooled pupils.

30           D. If federal monies are provided to a school district or a charter  
31 school for special education services to homeschooled or private schooled  
32 pupils, the school district or charter school shall provide the services to  
33 both the homeschooled pupils and the private schooled pupils in the same  
34 manner.

35           E. For the purposes of this section, "special education" has the same  
36 meaning prescribed in section 15-1201.

37           Sec. 3. Short title

38           This act may be cited as the "American Civics Act".

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR JANUARY 15, 2015.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE JANUARY 16, 2015.