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)
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

\textbf{15-701.01. High school; graduation; requirements; community college or university courses; transfer from private schools; academic credit}

A. The state board of education shall:

1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in section 15-101 and incorporating the academic standards adopted by the state board of education, for the graduation of pupils from high school.

2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. The academic standards prescribed by the state board of education in social studies shall include personal finance. This paragraph does not allow the state board of education to establish a required separate personal finance course for the purpose of the graduation of pupils from high school. \textit{BEGINNING IN THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR, THE COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES SHALL INCLUDE A REQUIREMENT THAT, IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA, A PUPIL MUST CORRECTLY ANSWER AT LEAST SIXTY OF THE ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS LISTED ON A TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES. A DISTRICT SCHOOL OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL DOCUMENT ON THE PUPIL'S TRANSCRIPT THAT THE PUPIL HAS PASSED A TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.}

3. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741.

English language learners who are subject to article 3.1 of this chapter are subject to the assessments prescribed in section 15-741.

B. The governing board of a school district shall:

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

2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high schools in the school district. These criteria shall include accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by district assessment. Other criteria may include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance. Pursuant to the prescribed graduation requirements adopted by the state board of education, the governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course that would fulfill a mathematics course required for graduation from high school. The governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course only if the rigorous computer science course includes significant mathematics content and the governing board determines the high school where the rigorous computer science course is offered has sufficient capacity, infrastructure and qualified staff, including competent teachers of computer science. \textbf{THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OR CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY MAY}
DETERMINE THE METHOD AND MANNER IN WHICH TO ADMINISTER A TEST THAT IS
IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY THE UNITED
STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES. A PUPIL WHO DOES NOT OBTAIN A
PASSING SCORE ON THE TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE
NATURALIZATION TEST MAY RETAKE THE TEST UNTIL THE PUPIL OBTAINS A PASSING
SCORE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

K. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma pursuant to article 6 of this chapter are exempt from the graduation requirements prescribed in this section. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma are entitled to all the rights and privileges of persons who graduate with a high school diploma issued pursuant to this section, including access to postsecondary scholarships and other forms of student financial aid and access to all forms of postsecondary education. Notwithstanding any other law, a pupil who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma may elect to remain in high school through grade twelve and shall not be prevented from enrolling at a high school after the pupil becomes eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma. A pupil who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma and who elects not to pursue one of the options prescribed in section 15-792.03 may only be readmitted to that high school or another high school in this state pursuant to policies adopted by the school district of readmission.
Sec. 2. Section 15-763, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-763. Plan for providing special education; definition

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 3. Short title

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

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR JANUARY 15, 2015.