

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fourth Legislature
First Regular Session
2019

SENATE BILL 1184

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
3 to read:

4 15-701.01. High schools; graduation; requirements; community
5 college or university courses; transfer from
6 other schools; academic credit

7 A. The state board of education shall:

8 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in section
9 15-101 and incorporating the academic standards adopted by the state board
10 ~~of education~~, for the graduation of pupils from high school.

11 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils
12 from high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the
13 areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. The
14 academic standards prescribed by the state board ~~of education~~ in social
15 studies shall include personal finance and American civics education. The
16 state board ~~of education~~ may consider ~~the establishment of~~ ESTABLISHING a
17 required separate personal finance course for the purpose of the
18 graduation of pupils from high school. THE STATE BOARD SHALL REQUIRE AT
19 LEAST ONE-HALF OF A COURSE CREDIT IN ECONOMICS, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE
20 FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT. ~~Beginning in the~~
21 ~~2016-2017 school year~~, The competency requirements for social studies
22 shall include a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or
23 obtain a high school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at
24 least sixty of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is
25 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
26 United States citizenship and immigration services. A district school or
27 charter school shall document on the pupil's transcript that the pupil has
28 passed a test that is identical to the civics portion of the
29 naturalization test used by the United States citizenship and immigration
30 services as required by this section.

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

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

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

38 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
39 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include
40 accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading, writing,
41 mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by district
42 assessment. Other criteria may include additional measures of academic
43 achievement and attendance. Pursuant to the prescribed graduation
44 requirements adopted by the state board of education, the governing board
45 may approve a rigorous computer science course that would fulfill a

1 mathematics course required for graduation from high school. The
2 governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course only if the
3 rigorous computer science course includes significant mathematics content
4 and the governing board determines the high school where the rigorous
5 computer science course is offered has sufficient capacity, infrastructure
6 and qualified staff, including competent teachers of computer science.
7 The school district governing board or charter school governing body may
8 determine the method and manner in which to administer a test that is
9 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
10 United States citizenship and immigration services. A pupil who does not
11 obtain a passing score on the test that is identical to the civics portion
12 of the naturalization test may retake the test until the pupil obtains a
13 passing score.

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

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

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

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

1 high school graduation and that may be met by taking community college or
2 university courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

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

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

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

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

28 I. A pupil who transfers credit from a charter school, a school
29 district or Arizona online instruction shall be provided with a list that
30 indicates which credits have been accepted as elective credits and which
31 credits have been accepted as core credits by the school district or
32 charter school. Within ten school days after receiving the list, the
33 pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in
34 which core credit has been denied. The school district or charter school
35 shall accept the credit as a core credit for each particular course in
36 which the pupil takes an examination and receives a passing score on a
37 test that is aligned to the competency requirements adopted pursuant to
38 this section and that is designed and evaluated by a teacher in the school
39 district or charter school who teaches the subject matter on which the
40 examination is based. If a pupil is enrolled in a school district or
41 charter school and that pupil also participates in Arizona online
42 instruction between May 1 and July 31, the school district or charter
43 school shall not require proof of payment as a condition of the school
44 district or charter school accepting credits earned from the online course
45 provider.

1 J. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow high
2 school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic
3 course or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject
4 without enrolling in the course or subject.
5 K. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma pursuant to article 6 of
6 this chapter are exempt from the graduation requirements prescribed in
7 this section. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma are entitled to all
8 the rights and privileges of persons who graduate with a high school
9 diploma issued pursuant to this section, including access to postsecondary
10 scholarships and other forms of student financial aid and access to all
11 forms of postsecondary education. Notwithstanding any other law, a pupil
12 who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma may elect to remain in high
13 school through grade twelve and shall not be prevented from enrolling at a
14 high school after the pupil becomes eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma.
15 A pupil who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma and who elects not to
16 pursue one of the options prescribed in section 15-792.03 may only be
17 readmitted to that high school or another high school in this state
18 pursuant to policies adopted by the school district of readmission.