

REFERENCE TITLE: **personal finance course; requirement; appropriation**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
First Regular Session
2021

HB 2064

Introduced by
Representative Fillmore

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701.01 AND 15-720.02, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
APPROPRIATING MONIES; 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~~ THAT INCORPORATES the academic standards adopted
10 by the state board, ~~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 in social studies shall
15 include personal finance and American civics education. The state board
16 ~~may consider establishing~~ SHALL REQUIRE a ~~required~~ separate personal
17 finance course THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 15-720.02 for the
18 purpose of the graduation of pupils from high school. The state board
19 shall require at least one-half of a course credit in economics, which
20 shall include financial literacy and personal financial management. The
21 competency requirements for social studies shall include a requirement
22 that, in order to graduate from high school or obtain a high school
23 equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at least sixty of the
24 one hundred questions listed on a test that is identical to the civics
25 portion of the naturalization test used by the United States citizenship
26 and immigration services. A district school or charter school shall
27 document on the pupil's transcript that the pupil has passed a test that
28 is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
29 United States citizenship and immigration services as required by this
30 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. THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL APPROVE A PERSONAL FINANCE COURSE
43 THAT WOULD FULFILL A MATHEMATICS COURSE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH
44 SCHOOL. Other criteria may include additional measures of academic
45 achievement and attendance. Pursuant to the prescribed graduation

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

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

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

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

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

1 the amount of credit to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The
2 governing board shall not limit the number of credits that is required for
3 high school graduation and that may be met by taking community college or
4 university courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

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

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

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

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

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

1 district or charter school accepting credits earned from the online course
2 provider.

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

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

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

23 15-720.02. Instruction on personal finance in high schools

24 ~~A. A school district governing board or charter school may~~
25 ~~prescribe a separate personal finance course for the graduation of pupils~~
26 ~~from high school or incorporate personal finance instruction into an~~
27 ~~existing course or existing curricula for the graduation of pupils from~~
28 ~~high school, that is in addition to or higher than the course of study and~~
29 ~~competency requirements that the state board of education prescribes for~~
30 ~~the graduation of pupils.~~

31 ~~B. A. If a~~ THE personal finance course is prescribed by a school
32 ~~district governing board or charter school or if personal finance~~
33 ~~instruction is incorporated into an existing course or existing curricula,~~
34 ~~the course or incorporated instruction~~ REQUIRED BY SECTION 15-701.01 shall
35 include the following:

36 1. Explanations on how education, career choices and family
37 obligations affect future income.

38 2. Analyses of how advertising influences consumer choices.

39 3. The determination of short-term and long-term financial goals
40 and plans, including income, spending, saving and investing.

41 4. Comparisons of the advantages and disadvantages of using various
42 forms of credit and the determining factors of credit history.

43 5. Explanations of the risk, return and liquidity of short-term and
44 long-term saving and investment choices.

1 6. Identification of investment options available to individuals
2 and households.

3 ~~C.~~ B. A school district governing board or charter school may
4 develop its own curriculum on personal finance or may use a curriculum on
5 personal finance that is currently used by other public schools in this
6 state or by public schools in other states. A school district governing
7 board or charter school may use A curriculum on personal finance developed
8 by or in conjunction with an organization with expertise in providing
9 instruction to high school pupils on personal finance skills.

10 Sec. 3. Appropriation; department of education; personal
11 finance courses

12 The sum of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in
13 fiscal year 2021-2022 to the department of education to distribute to
14 school districts and charter schools to provide personal finance courses
15 as prescribed in sections 15-701.01 and 15-720.02, Arizona Revised
16 Statutes, as amended by this act.