

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; academic standards; civics instruction.

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-fifth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2022

## **HB 2008**

Introduced by  
Representatives Nguyen: Toma

### **AN ACT**

AMENDING SECTION 15-701.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-718; RELATING TO SCHOOL INSTRUCTION.

(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 that incorporates the  
9 academic standards adopted by the state board for the graduation of pupils  
10 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 **AND A COMPARATIVE**  
16 **DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES, SUCH AS COMMUNISM AND TOTALITARIANISM,**  
17 **THAT CONFLICT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY THAT ARE**  
18 **ESSENTIAL TO THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED STATES.** The state  
19 board may consider establishing a required separate personal finance  
20 course for the purpose of the graduation of pupils from high school. The  
21 state board shall require at least one-half of a course credit in  
22 economics, which shall include financial literacy and personal financial  
23 management. The competency requirements for social studies shall include  
24 a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or obtain a high  
25 school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at least sixty  
26 of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is identical to the  
27 civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States  
28 citizenship and immigration services. A district school or charter school  
29 shall document on the pupil's transcript that the pupil has passed a test  
30 that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by  
31 the United States citizenship and immigration services as required by this  
32 section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 not limit the number of credits that is required for high school  
2 graduation and that may be met by taking community college or university  
3 courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

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

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

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

21 H. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or  
22 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school  
23 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or  
24 instructional programs at the charter school or school district. The  
25 governing board of a school district may adopt a policy concerning the  
26 application of transfer credits for the purpose of determining whether a  
27 credit earned by a pupil who was previously enrolled in a school district  
28 or charter school will be assigned as an elective or core credit. A  
29 school district or charter school may note the learning outcomes that a  
30 student mastered as prescribed in the rules adopted pursuant to section  
31 15-203, subsection A, paragraph 38 to provide a record of the demonstrated  
32 competencies and award partial credit.

33 I. A pupil who transfers credit from a charter school, a school  
34 district or Arizona online instruction shall be provided with a list that  
35 indicates which credits have been accepted as elective credits and which  
36 credits have been accepted as core credits by the school district or  
37 charter school. Within ten school days after receiving the list, the  
38 pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in  
39 which core credit has been denied. The school district or charter school  
40 shall accept the credit as a core credit for each particular course in  
41 which the pupil takes an examination and receives a passing score on a  
42 test that is aligned to the competency requirements adopted pursuant to  
43 this section and that is designed and evaluated by a teacher in the school  
44 district or charter school who teaches the subject matter on which the  
45 examination is based. If a pupil is enrolled in a school district or  
46 charter school and that pupil also participates in Arizona online

1 instruction between May 1 and July 31, the school district or charter  
2 school shall not require proof of payment as a condition of the school  
3 district or charter school accepting credits earned from the online course  
4 provider.

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

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

23 Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 7, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,  
24 is amended by adding section 15-718, to read:

25 15-718. Civics instruction

26 TO HELP FAMILIES, CIVIC INSTITUTIONS, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, SCHOOL  
27 DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARDS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS PREPARE STUDENTS TO BE  
28 CIVICALLY RESPONSIBLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ADULTS, THE STATE BOARD OF  
29 EDUCATION SHALL WORK WITH THE SCHOOL OF CIVIC AND ECONOMIC THOUGHT AND  
30 LEADERSHIP AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE CENTER FOR THE PHILOSOPHY OF  
31 FREEDOM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA AND THE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR INSTITUTE  
32 TO:

33 1. DEVELOP CIVIC EDUCATION STANDARDS THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND  
34 CHARTER SCHOOLS MUST INCLUDE PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-701.01. THE CIVIC  
35 EDUCATION STANDARDS MUST INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON:

36 (a) THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE FOUNDING DOCUMENTS AND PRINCIPLES OF  
37 THE UNITED STATES AS FOUND IN SOURCE DOCUMENTS.

38 (b) THE CIVIC-MINDED EXPECTATIONS OF AN UPRIGHT AND DESIRABLE  
39 CITIZENRY THAT RECOGNIZES AND ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESERVING AND  
40 DEFENDING THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY INHERITED FROM PRIOR GENERATIONS AND  
41 SECURED BY THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

42 2. ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A LIST OF ORAL HISTORY RESOURCES TO BE  
43 USED ALONG WITH THE CIVIC EDUCATION STANDARDS THAT PROVIDE PORTRAITS IN  
44 PATRIOTISM BASED ON FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNTS OF VICTIMS OF OTHER NATIONS'  
45 GOVERNING PHILOSOPHIES WHO CAN COMPARE THOSE PHILOSOPHIES WITH THOSE OF  
46 THE UNITED STATES.