AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-701.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL INSTRUCTION.

(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:

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

A. The state board of education shall:

1. Prescribe a minimum course of study that incorporates the academic standards adopted by the state board 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 STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT ACADEMIC COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE MATHEMATICS GRADUATION PATHWAY THAT INCLUDES ALGEBRA, GEOMETRY AND ANOTHER ADVANCED MATHEMATICS COURSE, WHICH MAY INCLUDE PERSONAL FINANCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE, STATISTICS OR BUSINESS MATHEMATICS. The academic standards prescribed by the state board in social studies shall include personal finance and American civics education. The state board may consider establishing a required separate personal finance course for the purpose of the graduation of pupils from high school. The state board shall require at least one-half of a course credit in economics, which shall include financial literacy and personal financial management. 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. 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 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 whether the subject matter of the community college or university course is appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil intends to fulfill and whether 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 at least one-half of a Carnegie unit and up to and including one Carnegie unit for each three semester hours of credit that 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. A
school district or charter school may note the learning outcomes that a
student mastered as prescribed in the rules adopted pursuant to section
15-203, subsection A, paragraph 38 to provide a record of the demonstrated
competencies and award partial credit.

I. A pupil who transfers credit from a charter school, a school
district or Arizona online instruction shall be provided with a list that
indicates which credits have been accepted as elective credits and which
credits have been accepted as core credits by the school district or
charter school. Within ten school days after receiving the list, the
pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in
which core credit has been denied. The school district or charter school
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 that is aligned to the competency requirements adopted pursuant to
this section and that is designed and evaluated by a teacher in the school
district or charter school who teaches the subject matter on which the
examination is based. If a pupil is enrolled in a school district or
charter school and that pupil also participates in Arizona online
instruction between May 1 and July 31, the school district or charter
school shall not require proof of payment as a condition of the school
district or charter school accepting credits earned from the online course
provider.

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.