

REFERENCE TITLE: civics test; passing score

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

## HB 2632

Introduced by

Representatives Nguyen: Biasiucci, Blackman, Bolick, Burges, Carroll,  
Carter, Cobb, Diaz, Dunn, Fillmore, Griffin, Hoffman, Kaiser, Kavanagh,  
Martinez, Osborne, Parker, Udall, Senators Borrelli, Boyer, Livingston

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 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.

3. ~~INCLUDE IN~~ the competency requirements for social studies ~~shall include~~ PRESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION 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~~ SEVENTY 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 ONLY A PASS OR FAIL DESIGNATION that the pupil has passed ~~a~~ OR FAILED THE 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~~ PARAGRAPH. A PUPIL IN GRADE SEVEN OR EIGHT MAY TAKE THE TEST DESCRIBED IN THIS PARAGRAPH, AND IF THE PUPIL CORRECTLY ANSWERS AT LEAST SEVENTY OF THE ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS ON THE TEST:

(a) THE DISTRICT SCHOOL OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL DOCUMENT ON THE PUPIL'S TRANSCRIPT ONLY A PASS OR FAIL DESIGNATION THAT THE PUPIL HAS PASSED OR FAILED THE TEST REQUIRED BY THIS PARAGRAPH.

(b) THE PUPIL IS NOT REQUIRED TO TAKE THE TEST REQUIRED BY THIS PARAGRAPH AGAIN IN HIGH SCHOOL.

~~3.~~ 4. 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.

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

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

5           2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high  
6 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include  
7 accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading, writing,  
8 mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by district  
9 assessment. Other criteria may include additional measures of academic  
10 achievement and attendance. Pursuant to the prescribed graduation  
11 requirements adopted by the state board of education, the governing board  
12 may approve a rigorous computer science course that would fulfill a  
13 mathematics course required for graduation from high school. The  
14 governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course only if the  
15 rigorous computer science course includes significant mathematics content  
16 and the governing board determines the high school where the rigorous  
17 computer science course is offered has sufficient capacity, infrastructure  
18 and qualified staff, including competent teachers of computer science.  
19 The school district governing board or charter school governing body may  
20 determine the method and manner in which to administer a test that is  
21 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the  
22 United States citizenship and immigration services. A pupil who does not  
23 obtain a passing score on the test that is identical to the civics portion  
24 of the naturalization test may retake the test until the pupil obtains a  
25 passing score.

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

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

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

39           F. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may  
40 be met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects  
41 at a community college or university, if the course is at a higher level  
42 than the course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the  
43 course is not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal  
44 to or higher than the level of a high school course. The governing board  
45 shall determine whether the subject matter of the community college or

1 university course is appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil  
2 intends it to fulfill and whether the level of the community college or  
3 university course is less than, equal to or higher than a high school  
4 course, and the governing board shall award at least one-half of a  
5 Carnegie unit and up to and including one Carnegie unit for each three  
6 semester hours of credit that the pupil earns in an appropriate community  
7 college or university course. If a pupil is not satisfied with the  
8 decision of the governing board regarding the amount of credit granted or  
9 the subjects for which credit is granted, the pupil may request that the  
10 state board of education review the decision of the governing board, and  
11 the state board shall make the final determination of the amount of credit  
12 to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The governing board shall  
13 not limit the number of credits that is required for high school  
14 graduation and that may be met by taking community college or university  
15 courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

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

20 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the  
21 Arizona board of regents.

22 G. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided  
23 with a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and  
24 denied by the school district. A pupil may request to take an examination  
25 in each particular course in which credit has been denied. The school  
26 district shall accept the credit for each particular course in which the  
27 pupil takes an examination and receives a passing score on a test designed  
28 and evaluated by a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject  
29 matter on which the examination is based. In addition to the above  
30 requirements, the governing board of a school district may prescribe  
31 requirements for the acceptance of the credits of pupils who transfer from  
32 a private school.

33 H. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or  
34 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school  
35 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or  
36 instructional programs at the charter school or school district. The  
37 governing board of a school district may adopt a policy concerning the  
38 application of transfer credits for the purpose of determining whether a  
39 credit earned by a pupil who was previously enrolled in a school district  
40 or charter school will be assigned as an elective or core credit. A  
41 school district or charter school may note the learning outcomes that a  
42 student mastered as prescribed in the rules adopted pursuant to section  
43 15-203, subsection A, paragraph 38 to provide a record of the demonstrated  
44 competencies and award partial credit.

1 I. A pupil who transfers credit from a charter school, a school  
2 district or Arizona online instruction shall be provided with a list that  
3 indicates which credits have been accepted as elective credits and which  
4 credits have been accepted as core credits by the school district or  
5 charter school. Within ten school days after receiving the list, the  
6 pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in  
7 which core credit has been denied. The school district or charter school  
8 shall accept the credit as a core credit for each particular course in  
9 which the pupil takes an examination and receives a passing score on a  
10 test that is aligned to the competency requirements adopted pursuant to  
11 this section and that is designed and evaluated by a teacher in the school  
12 district or charter school who teaches the subject matter on which the  
13 examination is based. If a pupil is enrolled in a school district or  
14 charter school and that pupil also participates in Arizona online  
15 instruction between May 1 and July 31, the school district or charter  
16 school shall not require proof of payment as a condition of the school  
17 district or charter school accepting credits earned from the online course  
18 provider.

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

23 K. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma pursuant to article 6 of  
24 this chapter are exempt from the graduation requirements prescribed in  
25 this section. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma are entitled to all  
26 the rights and privileges of persons who graduate with a high school  
27 diploma issued pursuant to this section, including access to postsecondary  
28 scholarships and other forms of student financial aid and access to all  
29 forms of postsecondary education. Notwithstanding any other law, a pupil  
30 who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma may elect to remain in high  
31 school through grade twelve and shall not be prevented from enrolling at a  
32 high school after the pupil becomes eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma. A  
33 pupil who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma and who elects not to  
34 pursue one of the options prescribed in section 15-792.03 may only be  
35 readmitted to that high school or another high school in this state  
36 pursuant to policies adopted by the school district of readmission.

37 L. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL REPORT TO THE  
38 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ALL OF THE FOLLOWING AGGREGATE DATA, ORGANIZED BY  
39 GRADE LEVEL, RELATING TO THE TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION  
40 OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND  
41 IMMIGRATION SERVICES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS  
42 SECTION:

43 1. THE MEDIAN SCORE.

1           2. THE PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS WHO PASSED BY CORRECTLY ANSWERING AT  
2 LEAST SEVENTY OF THE ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS LISTED ON THE TEST.

3           3. THE PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS WHO FAILED BY CORRECTLY ANSWERING FEWER  
4 THAN SEVENTY OF THE ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS LISTED ON THE TEST.

5           4. ANY OTHER DATA REQUIRED BY THE STATE BOARD RELATING TO THE TEST.

6           M. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY NOT INCLUDE THE  
7 PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION OF ANY PUPIL IN THE DATA REPORTED TO  
8 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UNDER SUBSECTION L OF THIS SECTION. THE  
9 STATE BOARD SHALL PROVIDE THE DATA RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION L OF  
10 THIS SECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
11 EDUCATION SHALL MAKE THE DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, ORGANIZED AT A MINIMUM  
12 BY SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL AND GRADE LEVEL, ON THE WEBSITE THAT  
13 INCLUDES THE SCHOOL REPORT CARDS REQUIRED BY SECTION 15-746.