

REFERENCE TITLE: history of communism; instruction requirement

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SB 1133

Introduced by
Senators Rogers: Finchem

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-701.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-701.05; 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; report

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, 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~~ POLITICS. The
19 state 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.

24 3. Through the graduating class of 2025, include in the competency
25 requirements for social studies prescribed in paragraph 2 of this
26 subsection a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or
27 obtain a high school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at
28 least sixty of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is
29 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
30 United States citizenship and immigration services. Beginning with the
31 graduating class of 2026, the state board shall include in the competency
32 requirements for social studies prescribed in paragraph 2 of this
33 subsection a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or
34 obtain a high school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at
35 least seventy of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is
36 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
37 United States citizenship and immigration services. A district school or
38 charter school shall document on the pupil's transcript only a pass or
39 fail designation that the pupil has passed or failed the test required by
40 this paragraph. A pupil in grade seven or eight may take the test
41 described in this paragraph, and if the pupil correctly answers at least
42 seventy of the one hundred questions on the test:

43 (a) The district school or charter school shall document on the
44 pupil's transcript only a pass or fail designation that the pupil has
45 passed or failed the test required by this paragraph.

1 (b) The pupil is not required to take the test required by this
2 paragraph again in high school.

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

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

7 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the
8 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this
9 section.

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

31 C. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
32 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school that
33 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency
34 requirements that the state board prescribes.

35 D. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for
36 the passage of pupils in courses that are required for graduation from
37 high school.

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

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

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

27 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
28 Arizona board of regents.

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

40 H. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or
41 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school
42 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or
43 instructional programs at the charter school or school district. The
44 governing board of a school district may adopt a policy concerning the
45 application of transfer credits for the purpose of determining whether a

1 credit earned by a pupil who was previously enrolled in a school district
2 or charter school will be assigned as an elective or core credit. A
3 school district or charter school may note the learning outcomes that a
4 student mastered as prescribed in the rules adopted pursuant to section
5 15-203, subsection A, paragraph 38 to provide a record of the demonstrated
6 competencies and award partial credit.

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

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

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

L. Each school district and charter school shall report to the department of education all of the following aggregate data, organized by grade level, relating to the test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States citizenship and immigration services required by subsection A, paragraph 3 of this section:

1. The median score.
2. The percentage of pupils who passed by correctly answering the minimum number of questions required to pass the test pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 3 of this section.
3. The percentage of pupils who failed by correctly answering fewer than the minimum number of questions required to pass the test pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 3 of this section.
4. Any other data required by the department relating to the test.

M. A school district or charter school may not include the personally identifiable information of any pupil in the data reported to the department of education under subsection L of this section. The department of education shall make the data publicly available, organized at a minimum by school district or charter school and grade level, on the website that includes the school report cards required by section 15-746.

Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 7, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-701.05, to read:

15-701.05. Instruction on comparative politics: communism: totalitarianism

A. IN ADOPTING THE COURSE OF STUDY AND COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-701.01, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL REQUIRE THAT THE INSTRUCTION ON COMPARATIVE POLITICS INCLUDED IN THE SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS INCLUDE AGE-APPROPRIATE AND DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION ON ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE HISTORY OF COMMUNISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND DOMESTIC COMMUNIST MOVEMENTS, INCLUDING THE HISTORY OF EACH MOVEMENT AND TACTICS EMPLOYED DURING EACH MOVEMENT.
2. THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES BY COMMUNIST REGIMES AND PROPONENTS OF COMMUNISM.
3. A COMPARATIVE DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES, SUCH AS COMMUNISM AND TOTALITARIANISM, THAT CONFLICT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED STATES.
4. THE INCREASING THREAT OF COMMUNISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN COUNTRIES THAT ARE OR WERE ALLIED WITH THE UNITED STATES DURING THE TWENTIETH AND TWENTY-FIRST CENTURIES, INCLUDING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND OTHER MASS KILLINGS COMMITTED BY COMMUNIST REGIMES.
5. THE ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL EVENTS THAT HAVE PRECEDED OR ANTICIPATED, OR BOTH, HISTORICAL COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONS.

1 6. THE COMMUNIST POLICIES OF CUBA AND THE SPREAD OF COMMUNIST
2 IDEOLOGIES THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA, INCLUDING THE ROOTS OF THE COMMUNIST
3 PARTY OF CUBA AND GUERILLA FORCES THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA.

4 B. IN ADOPTING THE INSTRUCTION REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION,
5 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY CONSULT WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

6 1. INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM.

7 2. ONE OR MORE STATE-RECOGNIZED OR NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
8 ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE DEDICATED TO THE VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM.