

House Engrossed
alternative mathematics graduation pathway

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

HOUSE BILL 2278

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-701.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; 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 **STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT ACADEMIC COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR**
15 **AN ALTERNATIVE MATHEMATICS GRADUATION PATHWAY THAT INCLUDES ALGEBRA,**
16 **GEOMETRY AND ANOTHER ADVANCED MATHEMATICS COURSE, WHICH MAY INCLUDE**
17 **PERSONAL FINANCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE, STATISTICS OR BUSINESS MATHEMATICS.**

18 The academic standards prescribed by the state board in social studies
19 shall include personal finance and American civics education. The state
20 board may consider establishing a required separate personal finance
21 course for the purpose of the graduation of pupils from high school. The
22 state board shall require at least one-half of a course credit in
23 economics, which shall include financial literacy and personal financial
24 management. The competency requirements for social studies shall include
25 a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or obtain a high
26 school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at least sixty
27 of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is identical to the
28 civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States
29 citizenship and immigration services. A district school or charter school
30 shall document on the pupil's transcript that the pupil has passed a test
31 that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by
32 the United States citizenship and immigration services as required by this
33 section.

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

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

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

41 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
42 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include
43 accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading, writing,
44 mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by district
45 assessment. Other criteria may include additional measures of academic

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
12 Arizona board of regents.

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

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

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

1 this section and that is designed and evaluated by a teacher in the school
2 district or charter school who teaches the subject matter on which the
3 examination is based. If a pupil is enrolled in a school district or
4 charter school and that pupil also participates in Arizona online
5 instruction between May 1 and July 31, the school district or charter
6 school shall not require proof of payment as a condition of the school
7 district or charter school accepting credits earned from the online course
8 provider.

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

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