

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; civics instruction

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

HB 2555

Introduced by
Representative Griffin

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-701.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-701.04; 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 7, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,
27 is amended by adding section 15-701.04, to read:

28 15-701.04. Civics instruction; education curriculum; board
29 approval

30 A. TO HELP FAMILIES, CIVIC INSTITUTIONS, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, SCHOOLS
31 AND CHARTER SCHOOLS PREPARE STUDENTS TO BE CIVICALLY RESPONSIBLE AND
32 KNOWLEDGEABLE ADULTS, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL:

33 1. DEVELOP INTEGRATED CIVIC EDUCATION STANDARDS THAT SCHOOL
34 DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS MUST INCORPORATE AS PART OF REGULAR SCHOOL
35 WORK IN KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND GRADES ONE THROUGH TWELVE. THE CIVIC
36 EDUCATION STANDARDS MUST ASSIST STUDENTS IN DEVELOPING ALL OF THE
37 FOLLOWING:

38 (a) AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE STUDENTS' SHARED RIGHTS AND
39 RESPONSIBILITIES AS RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE AND OF THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES
40 OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

41 (i) THE HISTORY AND CONTENT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,
42 INCLUDING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, NATURAL LAW, SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH, EQUALITY
43 OF ALL PERSONS, LIMITED GOVERNMENT, POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY AND INALIENABLE
44 RIGHTS OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND PROPERTY, AND HOW THEY FORM THE PHILOSOPHICAL
45 FOUNDATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

1 (ii) THE HISTORY, MEANING, SIGNIFICANCE AND EFFECT OF THE
2 PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED
3 STATES CONSTITUTION, WITH EMPHASIS ON EACH OF THE TEN AMENDMENTS THAT MAKE
4 UP THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND HOW THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THE
5 STRUCTURE OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

6 (iii) THE ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF ADOPTING OUR NATION'S REPUBLICAN
7 FORM OF GOVERNMENT AS EMBODIED IN THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE FEDERALIST
8 PAPERS.

9 (b) A SENSE OF CIVIC PRIDE AND A DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE REGULARLY IN
10 GOVERNMENT AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS.

11 (c) AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCESS FOR EFFECTIVELY ADVOCATING
12 BEFORE GOVERNMENT BODIES AND OFFICIALS.

13 (d) AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CIVIC-MINDED EXPECTATIONS, DEVELOPED BY
14 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, OF AN UPRIGHT AND DESIRABLE CITIZENRY THAT
15 RECOGNIZES AND ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESERVING AND DEFENDING THE
16 BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY INHERITED FROM PRIOR GENERATIONS AND SECURED BY THE
17 UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

18 2. CURATE ORAL HISTORY RESOURCES TO BE USED ALONG WITH THE CIVIC
19 EDUCATION STANDARDS THAT PROVIDE PORTRAITS IN PATRIOTISM BASED ON THE
20 PERSONAL STORIES OF DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS WHO DEMONSTRATE CIVIC-MINDED
21 QUALITIES, INCLUDING FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNTS OF VICTIMS OF OTHER NATIONS'
22 GOVERNING PHILOSOPHIES WHO CAN COMPARE THOSE PHILOSOPHIES WITH THOSE OF
23 THE UNITED STATES.

24 3. REVIEW AND EITHER APPROVE OR REJECT THE INTEGRATED CIVIC
25 EDUCATION CURRICULUM SUBMITTED BY EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL
26 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION TO ENSURE THAT THE CURRICULUM
27 MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

28 B. ON OR BEFORE A DATE PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
29 EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL ANNUALLY SUBMIT ITS
30 INTEGRATED CIVIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR
31 APPROVAL.