

House Engrossed
civics test; passing score

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

HOUSE BILL 2632

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 academic standards prescribed by the state board in social studies shall
15 include personal finance and American civics education. The state board
16 may consider establishing a required separate personal finance course for
17 the purpose of the graduation of pupils from high school. The state board
18 shall require at least one-half of a course credit in economics, which
19 shall include financial literacy and personal financial management.

20 3. THROUGH THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025, INCLUDE IN the competency
21 requirements for social studies ~~shall include~~ PRESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF
22 THIS SUBSECTION a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school
23 or obtain a high school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer
24 at least sixty of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is
25 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
26 United States citizenship and immigration services. BEGINNING WITH THE
27 GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026, THE STATE BOARD SHALL INCLUDE IN THE COMPETENCY
28 REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES PRESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS
29 SUBSECTION A REQUIREMENT THAT, IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR
30 OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA, A PUPIL MUST CORRECTLY ANSWER AT
31 LEAST SEVENTY OF THE ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS LISTED ON A TEST THAT IS
32 IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY THE
33 UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES. A district school or
34 charter school shall document on the pupil's transcript ONLY A PASS OR
35 FAIL DESIGNATION that the pupil has passed ~~a~~ OR FAILED THE test ~~that is~~
36 ~~identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the~~
37 ~~United States citizenship and immigration services as~~ required by this
38 ~~section~~ PARAGRAPH. A PUPIL IN GRADE SEVEN OR EIGHT MAY TAKE THE TEST
39 DESCRIBED IN THIS PARAGRAPH, AND IF THE PUPIL CORRECTLY ANSWERS AT LEAST
40 SEVENTY OF THE ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS ON THE TEST:

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

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

1 ~~3.~~ 4. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section
2 15-741. English language learners who are subject to article 3.1 of this
3 chapter are subject to the assessments prescribed in section 15-741.

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

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

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

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

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

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

42 F. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may
43 be met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects
44 at a community college or university, if the course is at a higher level
45 than the course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the

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

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

23 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
24 Arizona board of regents.

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

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

1 15-203, subsection A, paragraph 38 to provide a record of the demonstrated
2 competencies and award partial credit.

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

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

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

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

- 1 1. THE MEDIAN SCORE.
- 2 2. THE PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS WHO PASSED BY CORRECTLY ANSWERING THE
- 3 MINIMUM NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REQUIRED TO PASS THE TEST PURSUANT TO
- 4 SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SECTION.
- 5 3. THE PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS WHO FAILED BY CORRECTLY ANSWERING FEWER
- 6 THAN THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REQUIRED TO PASS THE TEST PURSUANT TO
- 7 SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SECTION.
- 8 4. ANY OTHER DATA REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT RELATING TO THE TEST.
- 9 M. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY NOT INCLUDE THE
- 10 PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION OF ANY PUPIL IN THE DATA REPORTED TO
- 11 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER SUBSECTION L OF THIS SECTION. THE
- 12 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL MAKE THE DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, ORGANIZED
- 13 AT A MINIMUM BY SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL AND GRADE LEVEL, ON THE
- 14 WEBSITE THAT INCLUDES THE SCHOOL REPORT CARDS REQUIRED BY SECTION 15-746.