

Senate Engrossed

~~high schools; graduation requirements~~
(now: instruction; schools; graduation requirements)

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SENATE BILL 1425

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-112.01; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701.01 AND 15-718, ARIZONA
REVISED STATUTES; 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. Title 15, chapter 1, article 1, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-112.01, to read:

4 15-112.01. Prohibited courses and classes

5 A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL IN THIS STATE MAY NOT INCLUDE IN
6 ITS PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION ANY COURSES OR CLASSES THAT INCLUDE ANY
7 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM, CURRICULUM, MATERIAL OR ACTIVITY THAT IS DERIVED FROM
8 OR ASSOCIATED WITH AN INITIATIVE BY JOURNALISTS TO REFRAME THIS COUNTRY'S
9 HISTORY IN A RACIALLY DIVISIVE MANNER.

10 Sec. 2. Section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
11 read:

12 15-701.01. High schools; graduation; requirements; community
13 college or university courses; transfer from
14 other schools; academic credit; report

15 A. The state board of education shall:

16 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study that incorporates the
17 academic standards adopted by the state board for the graduation of pupils
18 from high school.

19 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils
20 from high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the
21 areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. The
22 academic standards prescribed by the state board in social studies shall
23 include personal finance, American civics education and a comparative
24 discussion of political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism,
25 that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy that are
26 essential to the founding principles of the United States. The state
27 board may consider establishing a required separate personal finance
28 course for the purpose of the graduation of pupils from high school. The
29 state board shall require at least one-half of a course credit in
30 economics, which shall include financial literacy and personal financial
31 management.

32 3. Through the graduating class of 2025, include in the competency
33 requirements for social studies prescribed in paragraph 2 of this
34 subsection a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or
35 obtain a high school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at
36 least sixty of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is
37 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
38 United States citizenship and immigration services. Beginning with the
39 graduating class of 2026, the state board shall include in the competency
40 requirements for social studies prescribed in paragraph 2 of this
41 subsection a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or
42 obtain a high school equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at
43 least seventy of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is
44 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
45 United States citizenship and immigration services. A district school or

1 charter school shall document on the pupil's transcript only a pass or
2 fail designation that the pupil has passed or failed the test required by
3 this paragraph. A pupil in grade seven or eight may take the test
4 described in this paragraph, and if the pupil correctly answers at least
5 seventy of the one hundred questions on the test:

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

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

11 4. INCLUDE IN THE COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES
12 PRESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION A REQUIREMENT THAT, IN ORDER
13 TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA,
14 A PUPIL MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF INSTRUCTION ON
15 THE FOLLOWING:

16 (a) AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE CIVICS EDUCATION PRESCRIBED
17 IN SECTIONS 15-710 AND 15-718.

18 (b) AMERICAN HISTORY, INCLUDING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, THE CIVIL
19 WAR, WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II.

20 ~~4.~~ 5. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section
21 15-741. English language learners who are subject to article 3.1 of this
22 chapter are subject to the assessments prescribed in section 15-741.

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

24 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the
25 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this
26 section.

27 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
28 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include
29 accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading, writing,
30 mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by district
31 assessment. Other criteria may include additional measures of academic
32 achievement and attendance. Pursuant to the prescribed graduation
33 requirements adopted by the state board of education, the governing board
34 may approve a rigorous computer science course that would fulfill a
35 mathematics course required for graduation from high school. The
36 governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course only if the
37 rigorous computer science course includes significant mathematics content
38 and the governing board determines the high school where the rigorous
39 computer science course is offered has sufficient capacity, infrastructure
40 and qualified staff, including competent teachers of computer science.
41 The school district governing board or charter school governing body may
42 determine the method and manner in which to administer a test that is
43 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
44 United States citizenship and immigration services. A pupil who does not
45 obtain a passing score on the test that is identical to the civics portion

1 of the naturalization test may retake the test until the pupil obtains a
2 passing score.

3 C. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
4 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school that
5 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency
6 requirements that the state board prescribes.

7 D. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for
8 the passage of pupils in courses that are required for graduation from
9 high school.

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

16 F. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may
17 be met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects
18 at a community college or university, if the course is at a higher level
19 than the course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the
20 course is not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal
21 to or higher than the level of a high school course. The governing board
22 shall determine whether the subject matter of the community college or
23 university course is appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil
24 intends it to fulfill and whether the level of the community college or
25 university course is less than, equal to or higher than a high school
26 course, and the governing board shall award at least one-half of a
27 Carnegie unit and up to and including one Carnegie unit for each three
28 semester hours of credit that the pupil earns in an appropriate community
29 college or university course. If a pupil is not satisfied with the
30 decision of the governing board regarding the amount of credit granted or
31 the subjects for which credit is granted, the pupil may request that the
32 state board of education review the decision of the governing board, and
33 the state board shall make the final determination of the amount of credit
34 to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The governing board shall
35 not limit the number of credits that is required for high school
36 graduation and that may be met by taking community college or university
37 courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

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

42 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
43 Arizona board of regents.

1 G. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided
2 with a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and
3 denied by the school district. A pupil may request to take an examination
4 in each particular course in which credit has been denied. The school
5 district shall accept the credit for each particular course in which the
6 pupil takes an examination and receives a passing score on a test designed
7 and evaluated by a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject
8 matter on which the examination is based. In addition to the above
9 requirements, the governing board of a school district may prescribe
10 requirements for the acceptance of the credits of pupils who transfer from
11 a private school.

12 H. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or
13 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school
14 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or
15 instructional programs at the charter school or school district. The
16 governing board of a school district may adopt a policy concerning the
17 application of transfer credits for the purpose of determining whether a
18 credit earned by a pupil who was previously enrolled in a school district
19 or charter school will be assigned as an elective or core credit. A
20 school district or charter school may note the learning outcomes that a
21 student mastered as prescribed in the rules adopted pursuant to section
22 15-203, subsection A, paragraph 38 to provide a record of the demonstrated
23 competencies and award partial credit.

24 I. A pupil who transfers credit from a charter school, a school
25 district or Arizona online instruction shall be provided with a list that
26 indicates which credits have been accepted as elective credits and which
27 credits have been accepted as core credits by the school district or
28 charter school. Within ten school days after receiving the list, the
29 pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in
30 which core credit has been denied. The school district or charter school
31 shall accept the credit as a core credit for each particular course in
32 which the pupil takes an examination and receives a passing score on a
33 test that is aligned to the competency requirements adopted pursuant to
34 this section and that is designed and evaluated by a teacher in the school
35 district or charter school who teaches the subject matter on which the
36 examination is based. If a pupil is enrolled in a school district or
37 charter school and that pupil also participates in Arizona online
38 instruction between May 1 and July 31, the school district or charter
39 school shall not require proof of payment as a condition of the school
40 district or charter school accepting credits earned from the online course
41 provider.

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

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

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

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

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

35 Sec. 3. Section 15-718, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
36 read:

37 15-718. Civics instruction

38 To help families, civic institutions, local communities, school
39 district governing boards and charter schools prepare students to be
40 civically responsible and knowledgeable adults, the state board of
41 education shall work with the school of civic and economic thought and
42 leadership at Arizona state university, the center for the philosophy of
43 freedom at the university of Arizona and the Sandra Day O'Connor institute
44 to:

1 1. Develop civic education standards that school districts and
2 charter schools must include pursuant to section 15-701.01. The civic
3 education standards must include instruction on:

4 (a) The original intent of the founding documents and principles of
5 the United States as found in source documents, **INCLUDING THE UNITED**
6 **STATES CONSTITUTION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, WITH EMPHASIS ON**
7 **EACH OF THE TEN AMENDMENTS THAT MAKE UP THE BILL OF RIGHTS, AND THE**
8 **ARGUMENTS PRESENTED IN THE FEDERALIST PAPERS.**

9 (b) The civic-minded expectations of an upright and desirable
10 citizenry that recognizes and accepts responsibility for preserving and
11 defending the blessings of liberty inherited from prior generations and
12 secured by the United States constitution.

13 2. On or before December 31, 2022, establish and maintain a list of
14 oral history resources to be used along with the civic education standards
15 and social studies standards that provide portraits in patriotism based on
16 first-person accounts of victims of other nations' governing philosophies
17 who can compare those philosophies with those of the United States.