

Senate Engrossed House Bill
foster children; high school; transfer

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HOUSE BILL 2645

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-701.04; 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 7, article 1, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-701.04, to read:

4 15-701.04. Guidelines; policies; high schools; foster
5 children; transfer credits; graduation
6 requirements; educational record; definitions

7 A. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR
8 CHARTER SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO CONSIDER WHEN DEVELOPING POLICIES
9 REGARDING THE CALCULATION OF ACADEMIC CREDITS, INCLUDING PARTIAL CREDITS,
10 FOR FOSTER CHILDREN WHO TRANSFER SCHOOLS PURSUANT TO A BEST INTEREST
11 EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT DETERMINATION WHILE THE FOSTER CHILD IS ENROLLED IN
12 ANY OF GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE. THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO
13 THIS SUBSECTION MUST INCLUDE ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR A RECEIVING SCHOOL TO
14 CALCULATE AND ACCEPT ACADEMIC CREDITS, INCLUDING PARTIAL CREDITS, THAT
15 WERE EARNED BY A FOSTER CHILD IN THE FOSTER CHILD'S SCHOOL OF ORIGIN.

16 B. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD AND CHARTER SCHOOL
17 GOVERNING BODY SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT POLICIES CONCERNING TRANSFER
18 CREDITS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN WHO TRANSFER TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER
19 SCHOOL PURSUANT TO A BEST INTEREST EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT DETERMINATION
20 WHILE THE FOSTER CHILD IS ENROLLED IN ANY OF GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE.
21 THE POLICIES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION MUST SPECIFY THE MANNER
22 IN WHICH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL WILL:

23 1. CALCULATE FULL AND PARTIAL ACADEMIC CREDITS THAT WERE EARNED BY
24 THE FOSTER CHILD AT THE FOSTER CHILD'S SCHOOL OF ORIGIN.

25 2. ACCEPT ALL ACADEMIC CREDITS, INCLUDING PARTIAL CREDITS, EARNED
26 BY THE FOSTER CHILD IN COURSES OR INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS AT THE FOSTER
27 CHILD'S SCHOOL OF ORIGIN.

28 3. DETERMINE WHETHER TO ACCEPT ACADEMIC CREDITS, INCLUDING PARTIAL
29 CREDITS, EARNED BY THE FOSTER CHILD AS CORE CREDITS OR AS ELECTIVE
30 CREDITS. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE
31 ATTEMPT TO ACCEPT AS CORE CREDITS ALL ACADEMIC CREDITS EARNED BY THE
32 FOSTER CHILD AND SHALL CONSIDER EACH LEARNING OUTCOME THAT THE FOSTER
33 CHILD HAS MASTERED AND EACH COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT THAT THE FOSTER CHILD
34 HAS DEMONSTRATED.

35 4. MEET WITH THE FOSTER CHILD NOT LATER THAN TEN DAYS AFTER THE
36 SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL RECEIVES THE FOSTER CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL
37 RECORDS FROM THE SCHOOL OF ORIGIN PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION C OF THIS SECTION
38 TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE FOSTER CHILD'S GRADUATION PLAN, INCLUDING THE
39 FOSTER CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAMS, IF
40 NECESSARY. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL PROVIDE A WRITTEN
41 COPY OF THE GRADUATION PLAN TO THE FOSTER CHILD, EACH PARENT OF THE FOSTER
42 CHILD WHOSE PARENTAL RIGHTS HAVE NOT BEEN TERMINATED AND THE FOSTER
43 CHILD'S GUARDIAN, CUSTODIAN, CAREGIVER OR FOSTER PARENT.

1 C. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD AND CHARTER SCHOOL
2 GOVERNING BODY SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT POLICIES CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF
3 EDUCATIONAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-530.04 BY THE SCHOOL OF ORIGIN
4 FOR A FOSTER CHILD WHO WAS ENROLLED IN ANY OF GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE.
5 THE POLICIES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION MUST REQUIRE THE SCHOOL
6 OF ORIGIN TO INCLUDE IN THE FOSTER CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL RECORDS BOTH OF THE
7 FOLLOWING:

8 1. ALL ACADEMIC CREDITS, INCLUDING PARTIAL CREDITS, EARNED BY THE
9 FOSTER CHILD.

10 2. IF THE FOSTER CHILD DID NOT RECEIVE PARTIAL CREDIT FOR A COURSE
11 IN WHICH THE FOSTER CHILD WAS ENROLLED, DOCUMENTATION OF THE COMPETENCIES
12 ACHIEVED BY THE FOSTER CHILD IN THE COURSE.

13 D. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT ENROLLS A FOSTER CHILD
14 WHO TRANSFERS SCHOOLS PURSUANT TO A BEST INTEREST EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT
15 DETERMINATION MAY ADMINISTER A LOCAL COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT TO AWARD FULL
16 OR PARTIAL ACADEMIC CREDITS FOR THE CORE COMPETENCIES IDENTIFIED IN THE
17 EDUCATIONAL RECORDS PROVIDED BY THE FOSTER CHILD'S SCHOOL OF ORIGIN.

18 E. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTIONS 15-701.01 AND 15-720.02, A CHARTER
19 SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY OR SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MAY NOT REQUIRE A
20 FOSTER CHILD WHO TRANSFERS SCHOOLS PURSUANT TO A BEST INTEREST EDUCATIONAL
21 PLACEMENT DETERMINATION WHILE THE FOSTER CHILD IS ENROLLED IN GRADE ELEVEN
22 OR TWELVE TO SATISFY A COURSE OF STUDY OR COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS TO
23 GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL THAT ARE IN ADDITION TO OR HIGHER THAN THE
24 MINIMUM COURSE OF STUDY AND COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY THE
25 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

26 F. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

27 1. "BEST INTEREST EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT DETERMINATION" MEANS THE
28 DETERMINATION OF A CHILD'S BEST INTEREST EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT PURSUANT TO
29 SECTION 8-530.04.

30 2. "FOSTER CHILD" HAS THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 8-501.