

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-second Legislature
First Regular Session
2015

HOUSE BILL 2064

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701.01 AND 15-763, 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. Section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-701.01. High school: graduation: requirements: community
5 college or university courses: transfer from
6 private schools: academic credit

7 A. The state board of education shall:

8 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in section 15-101
9 and incorporating the academic standards adopted by the state board of
10 education, for the graduation of pupils from high school.

11 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from
12 high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of
13 reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. The academic
14 standards prescribed by the state board of education in social studies shall
15 include personal finance. This paragraph does not allow the state board of
16 education to establish a required separate personal finance course for the
17 purpose of the graduation of pupils from high school. **BEGINNING IN THE**
18 **2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR, THE COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES SHALL**
19 **INCLUDE A REQUIREMENT THAT, IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR OBTAIN A**
20 **HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA, A PUPIL MUST CORRECTLY ANSWER AT LEAST SIXTY**
21 **OF THE ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS LISTED ON A TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS**
22 **PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND**
23 **IMMIGRATION SERVICES. A DISTRICT SCHOOL OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL DOCUMENT ON**
24 **THE PUPIL'S TRANSCRIPT THAT THE PUPIL HAS PASSED A TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO**
25 **THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY THE UNITED STATES**
26 **CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.**

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

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

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

33 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
34 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include accomplishment
35 of the academic standards in at least reading, writing, mathematics, science
36 and social studies, as determined by district assessment. Other criteria may
37 include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance. Pursuant
38 to the prescribed graduation requirements adopted by the state board of
39 education, the governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course
40 that would fulfill a mathematics course required for graduation from high
41 school. The governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course
42 only if the rigorous computer science course includes significant mathematics
43 content and the governing board determines the high school where the rigorous
44 computer science course is offered has sufficient capacity, infrastructure
45 and qualified staff, including competent teachers of computer science. **THE**

1 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OR CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY MAY
2 DETERMINE THE METHOD AND MANNER IN WHICH TO ADMINISTER A TEST THAT IS
3 IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY THE UNITED
4 STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES. A PUPIL WHO DOES NOT OBTAIN A
5 PASSING SCORE ON THE TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE
6 NATURALIZATION TEST MAY RETAKE THE TEST UNTIL THE PUPIL OBTAINS A PASSING
7 SCORE.

8 C. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
9 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school that
10 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency
11 requirements that the state board prescribes.

12 D. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for the
13 passage of pupils in courses that are required for graduation from high
14 school.

15 E. A teacher shall determine whether to pass or fail a pupil in a
16 course in high school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 4 on the basis
17 of the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed. The governing
18 board, if it reviews the decision of a teacher to pass or fail a pupil in a
19 course in high school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base
20 its decision on the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed.

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

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

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

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

13 H. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or
14 school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school
15 district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or instructional
16 programs at the charter school or school district. The governing board of a
17 school district may adopt a policy concerning the application of transfer
18 credits for the purpose of determining whether a credit earned by a pupil who
19 was previously enrolled in a school district or charter school will be
20 assigned as an elective or core credit.

21 I. A pupil who transfers from a charter school or school district
22 shall be provided with a list that indicates which credits have been accepted
23 as an elective credit and which credits have been accepted as a core credit
24 by the school district. Within ten school days after receiving the list, a
25 pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in which
26 core credit has been denied. The school district shall accept the credit as
27 a core credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an
28 examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by
29 a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the
30 examination is based.

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

35 K. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma pursuant to article 6 of
36 this chapter are exempt from the graduation requirements prescribed in this
37 section. Pupils who earn a Grand Canyon diploma are entitled to all the
38 rights and privileges of persons who graduate with a high school diploma
39 issued pursuant to this section, including access to postsecondary
40 scholarships and other forms of student financial aid and access to all forms
41 of postsecondary education. Notwithstanding any other law, a pupil who is
42 eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma may elect to remain in high school
43 through grade twelve and shall not be prevented from enrolling at a high
44 school after the pupil becomes eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma. A pupil
45 who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma and who elects not to pursue one

1 of the options prescribed in section 15-792.03 may only be readmitted to that
2 high school or another high school in this state pursuant to policies adopted
3 by the school district of readmission.

4 Sec. 2. Section 15-763, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:
5 15-763. Plan for providing special education; definition

6 A. All school districts and charter schools shall develop policies and
7 procedures for providing special education to all children with disabilities
8 within the district or charter school. All children with disabilities shall
9 receive special education programming commensurate with their abilities and
10 needs. Each child shall be ensured access to the general curriculum and an
11 opportunity to meet the state's academic standards. Pupils who receive
12 special education shall not be required to achieve passing scores on the
13 Arizona instrument to measure standards test OR THE TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO
14 THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST UNDER SECTION 15-701.01 in
15 order to graduate from high school unless the pupil is learning at a level
16 appropriate for the pupil's grade level in a specific academic area and
17 unless a passing score on the Arizona instrument to measure standards test OR
18 THE TEST THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST
19 UNDER SECTION 15-701.01 is specifically required in a specific academic area
20 by the pupil's individualized education program as mutually agreed on by the
21 pupil's parents and the pupil's individualized education program team or the
22 pupil, if the pupil is at least eighteen years of age. The pupil's
23 individualized education program shall include any necessary testing
24 accommodations. Special education services shall be provided at no cost to
25 the parents of children with disabilities.

26 B. The state board of education shall adopt guidelines to define a
27 parent's or guardian's role or a pupil's role, if the pupil is at least
28 eighteen years of age, in the development of a pupil's section 504 plan as
29 defined in section 15-731, including testing and testing accommodations.

30 C. For the purposes of determining the services to pupils served by
31 private schools under existing federal law, the state shall consider the term
32 to include homeschooled pupils.

33 D. If federal monies are provided to a school district or a charter
34 school for special education services to homeschooled or private schooled
35 pupils, the school district or charter school shall provide the services to
36 both the homeschooled pupils and the private schooled pupils in the same
37 manner.

38 E. For the purposes of this section, "special education" has the same
39 meaning prescribed in section 15-1201.

40 Sec. 3. Short title

41 This act may be cited as the "American Civics Act".