

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; transfer students; late enrollment

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

HB 2037

Introduced by
Representative Anderson

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701.01 AND 15-702, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

(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.

14 3. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741 for
15 the graduation of pupils from high school in at least the areas of reading,
16 writing and mathematics and shall establish passing scores for each such
17 test. ~~A pupil not successfully passing the required competency test shall~~
18 ~~graduate from high school with a recognized diploma if the pupil meets the~~
19 ~~alternative graduation requirements established by section 15-701.02.~~ A
20 pupil shall not be required to pass the competency test required in this
21 paragraph to graduate from high school if the pupil transfers into the
22 district from out-of-state and has successfully passed a statewide assessment
23 test on state adopted standards that are substantially equivalent to the
24 state board adopted academic standards.

25 B. If the state board of education adopts a competency test as a
26 graduation requirement for a child with a disability as defined in section
27 15-761 or a child who receives special education pursuant to section 15-763,
28 pupils with individualized education programs shall not be required to
29 achieve passing scores on competency tests in order to graduate from high
30 school unless the pupil is learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's
31 grade level in a specific academic area and unless passing scores on a
32 competency test ~~is~~ ARE specifically required in a specific academic area by
33 the pupil's individualized education program as mutually agreed on by the
34 pupil's parents and the pupil's individualized education program team or the
35 pupil, if the pupil is at least eighteen years of age. These competency
36 tests shall be administered to pupils in a manner prescribed in the pupil's
37 individualized education program and school districts and charter schools
38 shall make specific and appropriate accommodations for pupils with
39 individualized education programs. Pupils with section 504 plans as defined
40 in section 15-731 shall not be required to achieve passing scores on
41 competency tests in order to graduate from high school unless the pupil is
42 learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's grade level in a specific
43 academic area and unless passing scores on a competency test ~~is~~ ARE
44 specifically required in a specific academic area by the pupil's section 504

1 plan that is developed in consultation with the pupil's parents. These
2 competency tests shall be administered to pupils in a manner prescribed in
3 the pupil's section 504 plan and school districts and charter schools shall
4 make specific and appropriate accommodations for pupils with a section 504
5 plan. A pupil with an individualized education program or a section 504 plan
6 who graduates from high school but who is not required to achieve a passing
7 score on a competency test in order to graduate from high school shall
8 receive the standard diploma issued by the school district or charter school.

9 ~~B.~~ C. The governing board of a school district shall:

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

12 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
13 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include accomplishment
14 of the academic standards in at least reading, writing, mathematics, science
15 and social studies, as determined by district assessment. Other criteria may
16 include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance.

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

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

24 ~~E.~~ F. A teacher shall determine whether to pass or fail a pupil in a
25 course in high school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 3 on the basis
26 of the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed. The governing
27 board, if it reviews the decision of a teacher to pass or fail a pupil in a
28 course in high school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base
29 its decision on the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed.

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

1 the governing board, and the state board shall make the final determination
2 of the amount of credit to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The
3 governing board shall not limit the number of credits that is required for
4 high school graduation and that may be met by taking community college or
5 university 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 a
8 postsecondary educational institution under the jurisdiction of an Indian
9 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.~~ H. A pupil who transfers AFTER THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, FROM
13 OUTSIDE THIS STATE OR from a private school, shall be provided with a list
14 that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied by the school
15 district. A pupil may request to take an examination in each particular
16 course in which credit has been denied. The school district shall accept the
17 credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an examination and
18 receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by a teacher in the
19 school district who teaches the subject matter on which the examination is
20 based. In addition to the above requirements, the governing board of a
21 school district may prescribe requirements for the acceptance of the credits
22 of pupils who transfer from a private school.

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

27 Sec. 2. Section 15-702, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

28 15-702. High school equivalency diploma; fees; rules

29 A. Any person who is sixteen years of age or older and who passes a
30 general educational development test shall be awarded an Arizona high school
31 equivalency diploma by the state board of education and the state
32 superintendent of public instruction. The state board of education may
33 establish eligibility requirements for persons wishing to take a general
34 educational development test, except that the minimum age required to take
35 the test may not be older than sixteen nor shall the board require the
36 completion of any high school credits.

37 B. A person who meets the minimum course of study and competency
38 requirements prescribed by the state board of education for graduation from
39 high school through a combination of high school credits and community
40 college and university credits, which are converted to high school credits in
41 the same manner as provided in section 15-701.01, subsection ~~F~~ G by the
42 governing board or the state board of education, shall be awarded an Arizona
43 high school equivalency diploma.

- 1 C. The state board of education may establish and collect fees for the
- 2 issuance and reissuance of the following:
- 3 1. A general equivalency diploma.
- 4 2. A general equivalency transcript.
- 5 D. The state board of education shall ~~develop~~ ADOPT rules for fee
- 6 waivers for the general equivalency diploma and general equivalency
- 7 transcripts.