

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
First Regular Session
2007

HOUSE BILL 2245

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 specifically required in a specific academic area by the
33 pupil's individualized education program as mutually agreed on by the pupil's
34 parents and the pupil's individualized education program team or the pupil,
35 if the pupil is at least eighteen years of age. These competency tests shall
36 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 specifically
44 required in a specific academic area by the pupil's section 504 plan that is
45 developed in consultation with the pupil's parents. These competency tests

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 ~~F.~~ G. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may
30 be met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects at
31 a community college or university. ~~;~~ If the course is at a higher level than
32 the course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the course
33 is not taught in the high school, the level of the course ~~is~~ **SHALL BE** equal
34 to or higher than the level of a high school course. ~~The governing board~~
35 ~~shall determine if the subject matter of the community college or university~~
36 ~~course is appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil intends it to~~
37 ~~fulfill and if the level of the community college or university course is~~
38 ~~less than, equal to or higher than a high school course, and~~ The governing
39 board shall award one-half of a carnegie unit for each three semester hours
40 of credit the pupil earns in an appropriate community college or university
41 course. **A HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION TO THE**
42 **SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF ANY**
43 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSE OR UNIVERSITY COURSE. IF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
44 **COURSE OR UNIVERSITY COURSE IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO A HIGH SCHOOL COURSE THAT IS**
45 **OFFERED IN A CORE SUBJECT, THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL AWARD CREDIT IN THE SAME**

1 MANNER AS AN ELECTIVE COURSE. If a pupil is not satisfied with the decision
2 of the governing board regarding the amount of credit granted or the subjects
3 for which credit is granted, the pupil may request that the state board of
4 education review the decision of the governing board, and the state board
5 shall make the final determination of the amount of credit to be given the
6 pupil and for which subjects. The governing board shall not limit the number
7 of credits that is required for high school graduation and that may be met by
8 taking community college or university courses. For the purposes of this
9 subsection:

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

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

16 ~~G.~~ H. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided
17 with a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied
18 by the school district. A pupil may request to take an examination in each
19 particular course in which credit has been denied. The school district shall
20 accept the credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an
21 examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by
22 a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the
23 examination is based. In addition to the above requirements, the governing
24 board of a school district may prescribe requirements for the acceptance of
25 the credits of pupils who transfer from a private school.

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

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

31 15-702. High school equivalency diploma; fees; rules

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

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

1 governing board or the state board of education, shall be awarded an Arizona
2 high school equivalency diploma.

3 C. The state board of education may establish and collect fees for the
4 issuance and reissuance of the following:

5 1. A general equivalency diploma.

6 2. A general equivalency transcript.

7 D. The state board of education shall ~~develop~~ ADOPT rules for fee
8 waivers for the general equivalency diploma and general equivalency
9 transcripts.