

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; social studies assessment

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
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2008

HB 2555

Introduced by
Representatives Anderson: Prezelski, Tobin, Ulmer

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-741, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO PUPIL ASSESSMENT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Section 15-741, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:
4 15-741. Assessment of pupils
5 A. The state board of education shall:
6 1. Adopt rules for purposes of this article pursuant to title 41,
7 chapter 6.
8 2. Adopt and implement an Arizona instrument to measure standards test
9 to measure pupil achievement of the state board adopted academic standards in
10 reading, writing and mathematics in at least four grades designated by the
11 board. The board shall determine the manner of implementation. The board
12 ~~may~~ SHALL administer assessments of the academic standards in social studies
13 IN GRADES THREE, SIX AND SEVEN and MAY ADMINISTER ASSESSMENTS DEVELOPED BY
14 THE DEPARTMENT IN science AND FINE ARTS. Prior to the administration of the
15 tests to pupils and following the statewide piloting of the tests, the board
16 shall approve, at a public meeting, the Arizona instrument to measure
17 standards test.
18 3. Adopt and implement a statewide nationally standardized
19 norm-referenced achievement test in reading, language arts and mathematics,
20 except that the superintendent of public instruction may determine additional
21 grade levels for which pupils are tested. The tests shall be consistent with
22 the state standards and shall be administered during the spring of each year
23 between March 15 and May 1.
24 4. Ensure that the tests prescribed in this section are uniform
25 throughout the state.
26 5. Ensure that the tests prescribed in this section are able to be
27 scored in an objective manner and that the tests are not intended to advocate
28 any sectarian, partisan or denominational viewpoint.
29 6. Ensure that the results of the nationally standardized
30 norm-referenced achievement tests established as provided in this article are
31 comparable to associated grade equivalents, percentiles and stanines derived
32 from a multistate sample.
33 7. Include within its budget all costs pertaining to the tests
34 prescribed in this article. If sufficient monies are appropriated, the state
35 board may provide norm-referenced achievement test services to school
36 districts which request assistance in testing pupils in grades additional to
37 those required by this section.
38 8. Use subtests of the statewide nationally standardized
39 norm-referenced achievement test as designated by the state board to assess
40 pupils in reading, language arts and mathematics, at a level appropriate for
41 their grade level.
42 9. Survey teachers, principals and superintendents on achievement
43 related nontest indicators, including information on graduation rates by
44 ethnicity and dropout rates by ethnicity for each grade level. Before the
45 survey, the state board of education shall approve at a public meeting the

1 nontest indicators on which data will be collected. In conducting the survey
2 and collecting data, the state board of education shall not violate the
3 provisions of the family educational rights and privacy act (P.L. 93-380), as
4 amended, nor disclose personally identifiable information.

5 10. Establish a fair and consistent method and standard by which
6 norm-referenced test scores from schools in a district may be evaluated
7 taking into consideration demographic data. The board shall establish
8 intervention strategies to assist schools with scores below the acceptable
9 standard. The board shall annually review district and school scores and
10 shall offer assistance to school districts in analyzing data and implementing
11 intervention strategies. The board shall use the adopted norm-referenced
12 test and methods of data evaluation for a period of at least ten years.

13 11. Participate in other assessments that provide national comparisons
14 as needed.

15 B. The standardized norm-referenced achievement tests adopted by the
16 state board as provided in subsection A shall be given annually. The tests
17 shall be administered over a one week period between March 15 and May 1.
18 Nontest indicator data and other information shall be collected at the same
19 time as the collection of standardized norm-referenced achievement test data.

20 C. Local school district governing boards shall:

21 1. Administer the tests prescribed in subsection A.

22 2. Survey teachers, principals and superintendents on achievement
23 related nontest indicator data as required by the state board including
24 information related to district graduation and dropout rates. In conducting
25 the survey and collecting data, the governing board shall not violate the
26 provisions of the family educational rights and privacy act (P.L. 93-380), as
27 amended, nor disclose personally identifiable information.

28 D. A test for penmanship shall not be required pursuant to this
29 article.