

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

# HOUSE BILL 2563

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-189.03, 15-701.01 AND 15-702, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;  
RELATING TO TRANSFER CREDITS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-189.03, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 15-189.03. Academic credits; transfer

5 A. If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school OR  
6 SCHOOL DISTRICT enrolls in a public CHARTER school in this state, the public  
7 CHARTER school shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or  
8 instructional programs at the charter school ~~in a uniform and consistent~~  
9 ~~manner and according to the same criteria that are used to accept academic~~  
10 ~~credits from other public schools~~ OR SCHOOL DISTRICT. A CHARTER SCHOOL  
11 GOVERNING BOARD MAY ADOPT A POLICY CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF TRANSFER  
12 CREDITS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER A CREDIT EARNED BY A PUPIL WHO  
13 WAS PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL WILL BE  
14 ASSIGNED AS AN ELECTIVE OR CORE CREDIT.

15 B. A PUPIL WHO TRANSFERS FROM A CHARTER SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
16 SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH A LIST THAT INDICATES WHICH CREDITS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED  
17 AS AN ELECTIVE CREDIT AND WHICH CREDITS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AS A CORE CREDIT  
18 BY THE CHARTER SCHOOL. WITHIN TEN SCHOOL DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE LIST, A  
19 PUPIL MAY REQUEST TO TAKE AN EXAMINATION IN EACH PARTICULAR COURSE IN WHICH  
20 CORE CREDIT HAS BEEN DENIED. THE CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL ACCEPT THE CREDIT AS A  
21 CORE CREDIT FOR EACH PARTICULAR COURSE IN WHICH THE PUPIL TAKES AN  
22 EXAMINATION AND RECEIVES A PASSING SCORE ON A TEST DESIGNED AND EVALUATED BY  
23 A TEACHER IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL WHO TEACHES THE SUBJECT MATTER ON WHICH THE  
24 EXAMINATION IS BASED.

25 Sec. 2. Section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
26 read:

27 15-701.01. High school; graduation; requirements; community  
28 college or university courses; transfer from  
29 private schools; academic credit

30 A. The state board of education shall:

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

34 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from  
35 high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of  
36 reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.

37 3. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741 for  
38 the graduation of pupils from high school in at least the areas of reading,  
39 writing and mathematics and shall establish passing scores for each such  
40 test. ~~A pupil not successfully passing the required competency test shall~~  
41 ~~graduate from high school with a recognized diploma if the pupil meets the~~  
42 ~~alternative graduation requirements established by section 15-701.02.~~ A  
43 pupil shall not be required to pass the competency test required in this  
44 paragraph to graduate from high school if the pupil transfers into the  
45 district from out-of-state and has successfully passed a statewide assessment

1 test on state adopted standards that are substantially equivalent to the  
2 state board adopted academic standards.

3 ~~B.~~ B. If the state board of education adopts a competency test as a  
4 graduation requirement for a child with a disability as defined in section  
5 15-761 or a child who receives special education pursuant to section 15-763,  
6 pupils with individualized education programs shall not be required to  
7 achieve passing scores on competency tests in order to graduate from high  
8 school unless the pupil is learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's  
9 grade level in a specific academic area and unless passing scores on a  
10 competency test ~~is~~ ARE specifically required in a specific academic area by  
11 the pupil's individualized education program as mutually agreed on by the  
12 pupil's parents and the pupil's individualized education program team or the  
13 pupil, if the pupil is at least eighteen years of age. These competency  
14 tests shall be administered to pupils in a manner prescribed in the pupil's  
15 individualized education program and school districts and charter schools  
16 shall make specific and appropriate accommodations for pupils with  
17 individualized education programs. Pupils with section 504 plans as defined  
18 in section 15-731 shall not be required to achieve passing scores on  
19 competency tests in order to graduate from high school unless the pupil is  
20 learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's grade level in a specific  
21 academic area and unless passing scores on a competency test ~~is~~ ARE  
22 specifically required in a specific academic area by the pupil's section 504  
23 plan that is developed in consultation with the pupil's parents. These  
24 competency tests shall be administered to pupils in a manner prescribed in  
25 the pupil's section 504 plan and school districts and charter schools shall  
26 make specific and appropriate accommodations for pupils with a section 504  
27 plan. A pupil with an individualized education program or a section 504 plan  
28 who graduates from high school but who is not required to achieve a passing  
29 score on a competency test in order to graduate from high school shall  
30 receive the standard diploma issued by the school district or charter school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7           ~~F.~~ G. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may  
8 be met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects at  
9 a community college or university, if the course is at a higher level than  
10 the course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the course  
11 is not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal to or  
12 higher than the level of a high school course. The governing board shall  
13 determine if the subject matter of the community college or university course  
14 is appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil intends it to fulfill  
15 and if the level of the community college or university course is less than,  
16 equal to or higher than a high school course, and the governing board shall  
17 award one-half of a carnegie unit for each three semester hours of credit the  
18 pupil earns in an appropriate community college or university course. If a  
19 pupil is not satisfied with the decision of the governing board regarding the  
20 amount of credit granted or the subjects for which credit is granted, the  
21 pupil may request that the state board of education review the decision of  
22 the governing board, and the state board shall make the final determination  
23 of the amount of credit to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The  
24 governing board shall not limit the number of credits that is required for  
25 high school graduation and that may be met by taking community college or  
26 university courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

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

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

33           ~~G.~~ H. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided  
34 with a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied  
35 by the school district. A pupil may request to take an examination in each  
36 particular course in which credit has been denied. The school district shall  
37 accept the credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an  
38 examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by  
39 a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the  
40 examination is based. In addition to the above requirements, the governing  
41 board of a school district may prescribe requirements for the acceptance of  
42 the credits of pupils who transfer from a private school.

1 I. IF A PUPIL WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN A CHARTER SCHOOL OR  
2 SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLS IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE, THE SCHOOL  
3 DISTRICT SHALL ACCEPT CREDITS EARNED BY THE PUPIL IN COURSES OR INSTRUCTIONAL  
4 PROGRAMS AT THE CHARTER SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE GOVERNING BOARD OF A  
5 SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ADOPT A POLICY CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF TRANSFER  
6 CREDITS FOR THE PURPOSE OF WHETHER A CREDIT EARNED BY A PUPIL WHO WAS  
7 PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL WILL BE ASSIGNED  
8 AS AN ELECTIVE OR CORE CREDIT.

9 J. A PUPIL WHO TRANSFERS FROM A CHARTER SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
10 SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH A LIST THAT INDICATES WHICH CREDITS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED  
11 AS AN ELECTIVE CREDIT AND WHICH CREDITS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AS A CORE CREDIT  
12 BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. WITHIN TEN SCHOOL DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE LIST, A  
13 PUPIL MAY REQUEST TO TAKE AN EXAMINATION IN EACH PARTICULAR COURSE IN WHICH  
14 CORE CREDIT HAS BEEN DENIED. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ACCEPT THE CREDIT AS  
15 A CORE CREDIT FOR EACH PARTICULAR COURSE IN WHICH THE PUPIL TAKES AN  
16 EXAMINATION AND RECEIVES A PASSING SCORE ON A TEST DESIGNED AND EVALUATED BY  
17 A TEACHER IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHO TEACHES THE SUBJECT MATTER ON WHICH THE  
18 EXAMINATION IS BASED.

19 ~~H.~~ K. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow high  
20 school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic course  
21 or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject without  
22 enrolling in the course or subject.

23 Sec. 3. Section 15-702, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:  
24 15-702. High school equivalency diploma; fees; rules

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

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

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

- 42 1. A general equivalency diploma.
- 43 2. A general equivalency transcript.

44 D. The state board of education shall develop rules for fee waivers  
45 for the general equivalency diploma and general equivalency transcripts.