

Civics Education

The Act directs the State Board of Education to include the requirement for students to pass a civics test in the high school competency requirements for graduation, beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

Submitted as:

Arizona

[HB 2064](#)

Status: Signed into law on January 15, 2015.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

Section 1. [*High school; graduation; requirements; community college or university courses; transfer from private schools; academic credit.*]

- 1 A. The state board of education shall:
 - 2 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in [Insert citation] and incorporating the
 - 3 academic standards adopted by the state board of education, for the graduation of pupils
 - 4 from high school.
 - 5 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school
 - 6 incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of reading, writing,
 - 7 mathematics, science and social studies. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the
 - 8 competency requirements for social studies shall include a requirement that, in order to
 - 9 graduate from high school or obtain a high school equivalency diploma, a pupil must
 - 10 correctly answer at least sixty of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is
 - 11 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States
 - 12 Citizenship and Immigration Services. A district school or charter school shall document
 - 13 on the pupil's transcript that the pupil has passed a test that is identical to the civics
 - 14 portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration
 - 15 Services as required by this section.
- 16 B. The governing board of a school district shall:
 - 17 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the required subject areas
 - 18 pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.
 - 19 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high schools in the school district.
 - 20 These criteria shall include accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading,
 - 21 writing, mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by district assessment.
 - 22 Other criteria may include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance.
 - 23 Pursuant to the prescribed graduation requirements adopted by the state board of
 - 24 education, the governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course that
 - 25 would fulfill a mathematics course required for graduation from high school. The
 - 26 governing board may approve a rigorous computer science course only if the rigorous
 - 27 computer science course includes significant mathematics content and the governing
 - 28 board determines the high school where the rigorous computer science course is offered
 - 29 has sufficient capacity, infrastructure and qualified staff, including competent teachers of

1 computer science. The school district governing board or charter school governing body
2 may determine the method and manner in which to administer a test that is identical to
3 the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and
4 Immigration Services. A pupil who does not obtain a passing score on the test that is
5 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test may retake the test until the pupil
6 obtains a passing score.
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8 Section 2. [*Plan for providing special education; definition.*]

9 All school districts and charter schools shall develop policies and procedures for providing
10 special education to all children with disabilities within the district or charter school. All children
11 with disabilities shall receive special education programming commensurate with their abilities
12 and needs. Each child shall be ensured access to the general curriculum and an opportunity to
13 meet the state's academic standards. Pupils who receive special education shall not be required to
14 achieve passing scores on the Arizona instrument to measure standards test or the test that is
15 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test under Section 1 in order to graduate from
16 high school unless the pupil is learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's grade level in a
17 specific academic area and unless a passing score on the [state] instrument to measure standards
18 test or the test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test under Section 1 is
19 specifically required in a specific academic area by the pupil's individualized education program
20 as mutually agreed on by the pupil's parents and the pupil's individualized education program
21 team or the pupil, if the pupil is at least eighteen years of age. The pupil's individualized
22 education program shall include any necessary testing accommodations. Special education
23 services shall be provided at no cost to the parents of children with disabilities.