

**Regular Education**

A minimum of twenty-two (22) units of credit are required for graduation. Listed below are the units that must be completed before a student may receive a high school diploma. Each student shall demonstrate accomplishment of the standards in reading, writing, science, social studies, and mathematics adopted by the State Board of Education and pass each of the sections of the required competency test. A student not successfully passing the competency test shall graduate with a recognized diploma if the student meets the alternative graduation requirements established by A.R.S. 15-701.02. The Superintendent shall prepare regulations to implement the alternative graduation requirements and appoint a hearing officer for appeals.

Graduation requirements may be met as follows:

- By successful completion of subject area course requirements.
- By mastery of the standards adopted by the State Board of Education and other competency requirements for the subject as determined by the Governing Board in accord with A.A.C. R7-2-302.04 and rules established by the Superintendent.
- By earning credits through correspondence courses (limited to one [1] in each of the four [4] major subject areas) and/or by passing appropriate courses at the college or university level if the courses are determined to meet standards and criteria established by the Board and in accord with A.R.S. 15-701.01.
- By the transfer of credits as described in Policy JFABC.
- An out-of-state transfer student is not required to pass the competency test to graduate if the student has successfully passed a statewide assessment test on state adopted standards that are substantially equivalent to the State Board Adopted Academic Standards.

Graduation requirements are:

English .....	4.0 units
Math .....	4.0 units*
Science .....	3.0 units**
Social Studies.....	3.0 units***
American Government and Arizona Government ..	0.5 unit
American History - including Arizona History .....	1.0 unit
World History and Geography .....	1.0 unit
Economics .....	0.5 unit

Fine Arts	
or Career, Technical and Vocational Education .....	1.0 unit
Electives .....	<u>7.0</u> units
<b>Total</b> .....	22.0 units

\* In lieu of one (1) credit of Algebra II or its equivalent course content a student may request a personal curriculum in mathematics following R7-2-302.03.

\* Math courses shall consist of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, (or its equivalent) and an additional course with significant math content as determined by the Governing Board.

Pursuant to the prescribed graduation requirements adopted by the State Board of Education, the Governing Board may approve a rigorous computer science course that would fulfill a mathematics course required for graduation from high school. The Governing Board may only approve a rigorous computer science course if the rigorous computer science course includes significant mathematics content and the Governing Board determines the high school where the rigorous computer science course is offered has sufficient capacity, infrastructure and qualified staff, including competent teachers of computer science.

\*\* Three (3) credits of science in preparation for proficiency at the high school level on the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) test or successor test.

\*\*\* Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the competency requirements for social studies shall include a requirement that, in order to graduate from high school or obtain a high school equivalency diploma, a student must correctly answer at least sixty of the one hundred questions listed on a test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. The District school shall document on the student's transcript that the student has passed a test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The Governing Board may determine the method and manner in which to administer a test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. A student who does not obtain a passing score on the test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test may retake the test until the students obtains a passing score.

### **Special Education**

Listed above, under "Regular Education," are the requirements that must be completed before a student may receive a high school diploma. Completion of graduation requirements for special education students who do not meet the required units of credit

shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the special education course of study and the individualized education program of the student. Graduation requirements established by the Governing Board may be met by a student as defined in A.R.S. 15-701.01 and A.A.C. R7-2-302.

Students who receive special education shall not be required to achieve passing scores on the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards test or the test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test under A.R.S. 15-701.01 in order to graduate from high school unless the student is learning at a level appropriate for the student's grade level in a specific academic area and unless a passing score on the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards test or the test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test under A.R.S. 15-701.01 is specifically required in a specific academic area by the student's individualized education program as mutually agreed on by the student's parents and the student's individualized education program team or the student, if the student is at least eighteen years of age.

**Competency requirements.** Any student who is placed in special education classes, grades nine (9) through twelve (12), is eligible to receive a high school diploma without meeting state competency requirements, but reference to special education placement may be placed on the student's transcript or permanent file.

### **Waiver of Graduation Requirements**

The parents or legal guardian of a high school student, or the student if at least eighteen (18) years of age and/or emancipated, may petition, in writing, to waive a high school class required for graduation if the class is required by District policy but not by state law.

The letter (petition) should completely set forth the reasons for requesting the waiver and should be sent to the associate superintendent for school operations.

The Associate Superintendent for School Operations will ensure the completeness of the information contained therein and put the matter before the Governing Board in the appropriate manner.

The Governing Board will render its decision in open meeting, while preserving student confidentiality.

*Adopted:* date of Manual adoption  
*Revised:* September 8, 2015

LEGAL REF.: A.R.S. 15-203  
15-341  
15-701.01  
15-701.02  
15-763

A.A.C. R7-2-302.02  
R7-2-302.03  
R7-2-302.09

CROSS REF.: IGD - Curriculum Adoption  
IGE - Curriculum Guides and Course Outlines  
IIE - Student Schedules and Course Loads  
IKA - Grading/Assessment Systems  
JFABC – Admission of Transfer Students