

R7-2-314. Repealed-Definitions

A. “Board examination system” means a complete instructional system that includes all of the following components:

1. A coherent group of courses that collectively constitutes a core curriculum at the high school level;
2. A comprehensive syllabus for each course;
3. Appropriate instructional and teaching materials for each course;
4. High quality examinations that are closely aligned with the course syllabus;
5. Professional scoring of examinations; and
6. Teacher education that is designed to train teachers to properly teach those courses.

B. “Grand Canyon diploma” means a high school diploma that is offered to any student who demonstrates readiness for college level mathematics and English according to standards prescribed by an interstate compact on board examination systems, who has passing grades on an additional set of required approved board examinations in core academic courses as determined by the State Board of Education.

C. “Readiness for college level mathematics and English” means that a student has the mathematics and English skills and knowledge needed to succeed in college level courses that count toward a degree or certificate without taking remedial or developmental coursework.

R7-2-315. Repealed-Board Examination Systems; Offerings; Procedures

A. The Board shall select board examination systems that may be used by traditional public schools and charter schools in accordance with the requirements of this rule. Board examination systems selected by the Board shall:

1. Be approved by an interstate compact on board examination systems;
2. Be periodically modified to reflect core standards selected by an interstate compact on board examination systems;
3. Be aligned to Board approved academic standards;
4. Have common passing scores that are prescribed by an interstate compact on board examination systems that are set to the level of literacy required to succeed in college-level courses offered by community colleges in this state that count toward a degree or certificate without taking remedial or developmental coursework.

B. The Board shall contract with a private organization to act as primary administrator of approved board examination systems. The private organization shall:

1. Identify, select and contract with a national organization that is devoted to issues concerning education and the economy and that is selected by the Board to provide technical services to develop and maintain an interstate system of approved board examination systems.
2. Provide data and other information to a national organization that is devoted to issues concerning education and the economy and that is selected by the Board to provide technical services the national organization deems necessary to set appropriate performance standards for students in this state. The department of education shall provide data and other information to the private organization, as necessary.
3. Conduct technical studies required by the Board to compare the scores on approved board examinations by the students in this state to scores on the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards Test and other measures deemed necessary to ensure the efficacy of the approved board examinations. The private organization may contract with other entities that are selected by the state Board of Education for the purpose of conducting technical studies.
4. In cooperation with the superintendent of public instruction and the Board, solicit monies from all lawful private and public sources, including federal monies, to offset the costs of instruction provided to students pursuant to this rule.
5. Exercise general supervision over the implementation of the approved board examination systems in this state.
6. Prepare an annual report for the Board, which shall forward it to the legislature and the governor, on the progress made toward the goals established in Title 15, Chapter 7, Article 6. Participating schools and the department of education shall provide data to the private organization as needed in order to complete the annual report.
7. Identify, select and represent this state on the national governing body of an interstate compact on board examination systems, as approved by the Board.
8. Select this state's representatives in an interstate compact on board examination systems in accordance with the policies prescribed by that interstate compact.
9. Develop the Grand Canyon Diploma to be approved and adopted by the Board.

C. The department of education shall develop a system, subject to Board approval, to track the academic progress of pupils who participate in board examination systems.

D. School districts or charter schools wishing to implement an approved board examination in one or more schools shall:

1. Send written notice to the private organization described in this rule indicating that school district's or charter school's interest in implementing an approved board examination system;

2. Submit an implementation plan to the private organization described in this rule that includes at least the following elements:

a. The specific approved board examination system the school district wishes to implement;

b. A proposed timeline for the implementation of an approved board examination system;

c. A description of the funding model that will be employed to ensure the sustainability of the approved board examination system offering;

d. A communication plan for students and parents that provides an overview of the selected approved board examination system , potential course offerings, a description of student support systems, and contact information for students and parents to obtain more detailed information regarding board examination systems and the Grand Canyon Diploma option, as defined in R7-2-315.01.

E. Upon receipt of an implementation plan described in this rule the private organization shall work cooperatively with the applicable school district or charter school to ensure that the plan is feasible and to modify any elements of the plan deemed necessary for successful implementation of the approved board examination system.

R7-2-315.01. Grand Canyon Diploma

A. School districts and charter schools in this state may choose to offer a Grand Canyon diploma beginning in the 2012 – 2013 school year. A high school student who is enrolled in a school district or charter school that offers a Grand Canyon diploma may choose to pursue a Grand Canyon diploma.

B. A student may be awarded a Grand Canyon diploma at the end of grade ten or during or at the end of grade eleven or twelve provided that the student has passed both the mathematics and English

assessments for the applicable approved board examination system, and the student has successfully completed the following subject area requirements within board examination system curriculum:

1. Two credits of English;
2. Two credits of mathematics;
3. Two credits of science, including lab-based science, engineering or information technologies;
4. One credit of American History;
5. One credit of World History;
6. One credit of fine arts or career and technical education and vocational education; and
7. One-half credit of economics.

C. A student that satisfies all the criteria for issuance of a Grand Canyon diploma is exempt from the minimum course of study requirements delineated in R7-2-302.02.

D. Students who earn a Grand Canyon Diploma shall have multiple pathways available to them and may:

1. Enroll the following semester in a community college under the jurisdiction of a community college in this state. Students who take community college courses on high school campuses pursuant to this paragraph shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, through the end of grade twelve;
2. Remain in high school and enroll in additional advanced preparation board examination programs that are designed to prepare students for admission to high quality postsecondary institutions that offer baccalaureate degree programs. These board examination programs shall be selected from a list provided by an interstate compact for board examination systems and approved by the Board. Students who elect to remain in high school pursuant to this paragraph shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, through the end of grade twelve.
3. Enroll in a full-time career and technical education program offered on a community college campus, a high school campus or a joint technical education district campus, or any combination of these campuses. Students who elect to remain in high school pursuant to this paragraph shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, through the end of grade twelve.
4. Return to a traditional academic program without completing the next level of board examination systems curriculum through the end of grade twelve. Students who elect to

remain in high school pursuant to this paragraph shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, through the end of grade twelve.

E. Students who pursue but do not earn a Grand Canyon diploma at the end of grade ten or eleven shall receive a customized program of assistance during the next school year that addresses the areas in which the student demonstrated deficiencies in the approved board examinations. These students may retake the board examinations at the next available examination administration. Students may choose to return to a traditional academic program without completing the board examination system curriculum.

F. A student who remains in a board examination system curriculum through grade twelve and does not pass the board examination may graduate with a standard diploma provided that the student meets the following requirements:

1. The student has passed the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards assessments in mathematics and English or received a sufficient score as determined by the Board on the ACT, SAT, or an approved board examination in mathematics and English.
2. The student has earned at least 22 credits and has passed a Board-approved sequence of courses within the board examination system curriculum. For the purpose of this requirement the private organization and the department of education shall recommend for Board approval a sequence of courses for each approved board examination system. The sequence of courses for each board examination system shall ensure that students receive instruction in all Board-approved academic standards encompassed in R7-2-302.02(1) (a) through (e).

G. A student who is enrolled in a school district or charter school that does not offer a board examination system curriculum may earn a Grand Canyon Diploma by:

1. Obtaining a passing score on the assessments of an approved board examination system in each of the subject areas delineated in R7-2-315.01(B)(1) through (6); and
2. Completing a high school course in economics.