



State of Arizona
Department of Education
Office of John Huppenthal
Superintendent of Public Instruction

MEMORANDUM

To: High School Principals
From: Superintendent John Huppenthal
Date: October 21, 2011
Subject: Revisions to Graduation Requirements

This memo serves as a reminder that the revisions to Arizona's graduation requirements are to be enforced beginning with this year's 2012 graduating class. It is important to ensure all 2012 graduates meet the new criteria. The State Board of Education adopted new high school graduation requirements in December 2007 with a phased in timeline that applies to those students graduating in 2012 and 2013.

The changes that go into effect with this year's graduation class of 2012 are as follows:

1. Three credits of Social Studies including:
 - a. One credit of American history including Arizona history;
 - b. One credit of world history/geography ;
 - c. One-half credit of American government, including Arizona government; and
 - d. One-half credit of economics.

2. Three credits of mathematics including
 - a. Two credits of content from the five strands of the 2008 Mathematics Standard; and
 - b. One credit that includes significant mathematics content.

Effective with the graduation class of 2013, the three social studies credit requirements are maintained along with the following additions to mathematics and science requirements:

1. Four credits of mathematics including:
 - a. Two credits of content from the five strands of the 2008 Mathematics Standard;
 - b. One credit of significant mathematics; and
 - c. One credit covering Algebra II or course content equivalent to Algebra II. (or personal curriculum requirements pursuant to AAC R7-2-302.03 if the student is eligible)

2. Three credits of science.



Please note: All graduation requirements shall be strictly enforced by year of graduation, **NOT** by a cohort. Therefore, high school seniors that fail to meet graduation requirements by the end of 2012 will be required to complete all additional requirements that become effective in 2013, as outlined in State Board of Education Rule (AAC R7-2-302.01, 302.02, and 302.03).

As adjustments are made at the local level to accommodate these revisions we strongly encourage schools and districts to take advantage of professional development and technical assistance offered by the Arizona Department of Education and other expert organizations including state social studies, mathematics and science organizations.

Several organizations including the Arizona Council for Economics Education, the University of Arizona Office Of Economics Education and the Thomas R. Brown Foundation, all provide content training in the area of economics education. They offer numerous programs address new materials, teaching strategies and content that teachers can take directly into their classrooms. For more information please go to azecon.org or TRBFoundation.org

Your professional efforts in leading your staff to effectively prepare students not only for their high school graduation but for college and career options are deeply respected and appreciated. If you have any questions or need further information please contact the Arizona Department of Education's K-12 Academic Standards Section at 602-364-2333 or email Kathy Hrabluk at Kathryn.Hrabluk@azed.gov Content specialists will be happy to support you.

