

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 2152 of the Regular Session

As Engrossed: S3/29/05 H4/7/05

A Bill

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

SENATE BILL 1054

4
5 By: Senator Salmon
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO ALLOW A HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OFFERED
10 UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA
11 PROGRAM TO BE TREATED THE SAME AS AN ADVANCED
12 PLACEMENT COURSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14
15 AN ACT TO ALLOW A HIGH SCHOOL COURSE
16 OFFERED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL
17 BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM TO BE
18 TREATED THE SAME AS AN ADVANCED
19 PLACEMENT COURSE.
20
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
23

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-902 is amended to read as follows:
25 6-15-902. Grading scale - Exemptions - Special education classes.

26 (a) The following grading scale shall be used by all public secondary
27 schools in the state for all courses, except advanced placement courses and
28 courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program,
29 offered:

- 30 (1) A = 90-100;
31 (2) B = 80-89;
32 (3) C = 70-79;
33 (4) D = 60-69; and
34 (5) F = 59 and below.

35 (b) Each letter grade shall be given a numeric value for the purpose



1 of determining grade average. Except for advanced placement courses, courses
2 offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and honors
3 courses, the numeric value for each letter grade shall be:

- 4 (1) A = 4 points;
- 5 (2) B = 3 points;
- 6 (3) C = 2 points;
- 7 (4) D = 1 point; and
- 8 (5) F = 0 points.

9 (c)(1) The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate
10 equivalents for advanced placement and college courses and shall recommend a
11 uniform grading structure for honors courses.

12 (2) ~~The numeric grade for college courses taken by high school~~
13 ~~students which qualify for college credit and are approved for credit as a~~
14 ~~high school course shall be equal to the numeric grade value for advanced~~
15 ~~placement courses which are substantially the same as the college course.~~
16 Weighted credit shall be allowed for advanced placement courses and courses
17 offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program if:

18 (A) The student takes the entire advanced placement course
19 or the entire course offered in the International Baccalaureate Diploma
20 Program in a particular subject;

21 (B) The student completes the applicable test offered by
22 the College Board for advanced placement courses at the end of the advanced
23 placement course, or the applicable test offered by the International
24 Baccalaureate Organization at the time prescribed by the International
25 Baccalaureate Organization; and

26 (C)(i) The teacher of the advanced placement course meets
27 Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and:

28 (a) Attends a College Board Advanced Placement
29 Summer Institute no less than once every five (5) years; or

30 (b) Completes an additional training plan for
31 advanced placement, within three (3) years of commencing the additional
32 training plan; or

33 (ii) The teacher of the course offered under the
34 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program meets Arkansas teacher licensure
35 requirements and attends the training required by the International
36 Baccalaureate Organization.

1 (3)(A) The local school board may decide whether to adopt a
2 policy to allow high school students in the district to take college courses
3 for weighted credit equal to the numeric grade awarded in advanced placement
4 courses, courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma
5 Program, and honors classes.

6 (B) If a local school board adopts a policy as set forth
7 in subdivision (c)(3)(A) of this section, the district must apply to the
8 Department of Education through the Assistant Director for Accountability for
9 approval of courses to be designated "concurrent enrollment college courses".
10 The application shall be reviewed for approval to assign a numeric grade
11 value, which may include weighted credit, based on the following:

12 (i) A letter from the superintendent of the district
13 or principal of the school describing how the course exceeds expectations for
14 coursework required under the Standards for Accreditation, Arkansas Public
15 Schools; and

16 (ii) The grade level or levels of students who will
17 be enrolled in the course.

18 (d) A notation shall be made on a student's transcript to indicate
19 each special education class included on the transcript.

20 (e) A school district shall have the option of using the grading scale
21 in this section in the district's elementary schools.

22
23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2006 is amended to read as follows:
24 6-15-2006. Annual report.

25 (a)(1)(A) In addition to the requirements in § 6-15-2004(b), each
26 district school board shall annually report to the parent or guardian of each
27 student the progress of the student toward achieving state expectations for
28 proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics.

29 (B) The district school board shall report to the parent,
30 guardian, or the student if the student is eighteen (18) years of age or
31 older, the student's results on each statewide assessment test.

32 (2) The evaluation of each student's progress shall be based
33 upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, state assessments,
34 and other relevant information.

35 (3) Progress reporting shall be provided to the parent,
36 guardian, or the student if the student is eighteen (18) years of age or

1 older, in writing in a format adopted by the district school board which is
2 consistent with § 6-15-2101(b).

3 (b) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, each district school
4 board shall annually publish in the local newspaper the school performance
5 report required by § 6-15-1402 and report in writing to the State Board of
6 Education by October 15 of each year the following information on the prior
7 school year or the latest information available:

8 (1) By grade level, economic status, and ethnicity, the number
9 and percentage of all students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12)
10 performing at each category level on the benchmark examinations, and end-of-
11 course examinations, the percentile rankings by school and grade level on
12 norm-referenced exams, any other assessments as required by the state board,
13 the number of students taking advanced placement courses or courses offered
14 under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, the number taking the
15 advanced placement exams, and the percent of students making a 3.0, 4.0, or
16 5.0 on advanced placement exams;

17 (2) By grade level, the number and percentage of all students
18 retained in grades one through eight (1-8);

19 (3) The graduation rate, grade inflation rate, drop-out rate for
20 grades nine through twelve (9-12), and college remediation rate;

21 (4) The number of students transferring pursuant to the unsafe
22 school provision of § 6-15-439; and

23 (5) The number of students transferring pursuant to the Arkansas
24 Opportunity Public School Choice Act of 2004, § 6-18-227 et seq.

25 (c) This section shall apply to the extent that it is not in violation
26 of applicable state or federal law.

27
28 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 8 is amended
29 to read as follows:

30 6-16-801. Title.

31 This subchapter shall be known as and may be cited as the "Arkansas
32 Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program
33 Act of 1995".

34
35 6-16-802. Purpose.

36 (a) The purpose of this subchapter is to serve as a legislative

1 charter for the establishment, organization, and administration of a program
2 designed to improve the course offerings available to middle school, junior
3 high school, and high school students throughout the state.

4 (b) The program established under this subchapter will provide
5 advanced educational courses that are easily accessible and that will prepare
6 students for admission to and success in a postsecondary educational
7 environment.

8 (c) A key component in the program is adequately preparing teachers
9 and schools in providing advanced placement courses or courses offered under
10 the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program to their students.

11
12 6-16-803. Definitions.

13 As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

14 (1)(A) "Advanced placement course" means a high school level
15 preparatory course for a college advanced placement test that incorporates
16 all topics specified by the College Board and Educational Testing Service on
17 its standard syllabus for a given subject area and is approved by the College
18 Board and Educational Testing Service~~;~~.

19 (B) "Preadvanced placement course" means a middle school,
20 junior high school, or high school level course that specifically prepares
21 students to enroll and participate in an advanced placement course;

22 (2) "Board" means the State Board of Education;

23 (3) "College advanced placement test" means the advanced
24 placement test administered by the College Board and Educational Testing
25 Service;

26 (4) "College Board" means the College Board and Educational
27 Testing Service;

28 (5) "Department" means the Department of Education;

29 (6) "Director" means the Director of the Department of
30 Education; ~~and~~

31 (7) "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program" means an
32 international education program offered by the International Baccalaureate
33 Organization; and

34 ~~(7)~~(8) "Program" means the Arkansas Advanced Placement and
35 International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program.

36

1 6-16-804. Established - Subsidies - Rules and regulations.

2 (a) The Arkansas Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate
3 Diploma Incentive Program is hereby established, to be administered by the
4 Director of the Department of Education.

5 (b)~~(1)~~ Contingent upon legislative appropriations and based on
6 criteria established by the department, schools participating in the program
7 may be awarded a one-time equipment and instructional materials grant for
8 providing an advanced placement course or a course offered under the
9 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

10 ~~(2) Contingent upon legislative appropriations, schools will be~~
11 ~~awarded fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each score of three (3) or better earned~~
12 ~~by a student on any advanced placement test. These funds shall be utilized in~~
13 ~~the schools' advanced placement programs.~~

14 (c) Subject to legislative appropriations, a teacher participating in
15 the advanced placement program, the International Baccalaureate Diploma
16 program Program, or in the preadvanced placement program may be awarded
17 subsidized teacher training for advanced placement courses at a cost not to
18 exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650) per teacher.

19 (d)(1) ~~The~~ Contingent upon legislative appropriation and the
20 availability of funding, the state will may pay a share of the advanced
21 placement test fee not to exceed sixty five dollars (\$65.00) in full, or on a
22 pro-rate basis as determined under subsection (d)(2) of this section, the
23 cost of the advanced placement test fee or the equivalent test fee under the
24 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, or both.

25 (2) ~~The State Board of Education shall~~ may create a sliding
26 scale based on family income.

27 ~~(3) The state will pay fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each test~~
28 ~~taken as an economic supplement to each public school student who takes more~~
29 ~~than two (2) advanced placement tests in one (1) year.~~

30 ~~(4) All students taking advanced placement courses must take~~
31 ~~advanced placement tests or return the economic supplement.~~

32 (e) The board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations
33 necessary to implement this subchapter.

34
35 6-16-805. Funding.

36 (a) The awards granted under the provisions of this subchapter for

1 both advanced placement and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
2 may be funded by donations, grants, or legislative appropriation.

3 (b) All donations, grants, and appropriations received shall be
4 accounted for by the Department of Education.

5 (c) The Director of the Department of Education may solicit and
6 receive donations and grants for the purpose of making awards.

7
8 SECTION 4. Any high school course offered under the International
9 Baccalaureate Diploma Program shall be treated the same as an advanced
10 placement course, including for the following purposes:

11 (1) Weighted credit;

12 (2) The Arkansas Advanced Placement and the International
13 Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program Act of 1995; and

14 (3) Reporting requirements.

15
16 /s/ Salmon

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19 APPROVED: 4/13/2005
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