

Hall of the House of Representatives
84th General Assembly - Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 27

"AN ACT TO STANDARDIZE THE EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS NECESSARY FOR
SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY IN ARKANSAS."

Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill No. 27.

Amend Senate Bill No. 27 as engrossed, H1/12/04 (version: 01-12-2004 13:45):

Delete lines 10 through 12 and substitute:

"AN ACT TO CREATE A UNIFORM METHOD OF CALCULATING A STUDENT'S GRADE POINT
AVERAGE FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Delete the subtitle in its entirety and substitute:

"AN ACT TO CREATE A UNIFORM METHOD OF
CALCULATING A STUDENT'S GRADE POINT
AVERAGE FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES."

AND

Delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 9 is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-15-903. Class rank and grade point average.

(a) School districts shall calculate the class rank and grade point
average based on the grades that a student receives in the following courses:

(1) Courses identified as core courses under § 6-61-217, known
as the minimum core curriculum;

(2) Courses completed under the student's individual education
plan or other appropriate measures, if the student is not enrolled in common
core, because a medical doctor and the parent or custodian of the student
certifies that a medical condition exists that impairs cognitive functioning
and that the student should not pursue the minimum core; or

(3) Courses completed under a Smart Core curriculum as set forth
by the Department of Education, if the student elects to use his or her
grades received on Smart Core courses rather than under the minimum core
curriculum.

(b) A student may elect to include in the calculation of his or her
class rank and grade point average any grade received in an advanced



placement course, an honor course, or a Department of Education approved concurrent enrollment college course.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-61-217 is amended to read as follows:
6-61-217. Minimum core courses for college prep.

(a) In order to promote a coordinated system of higher education in Arkansas and to assure an orderly and effective development of each of the publicly supported institutions of higher education, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, after consultation with the State Board of Education, shall identify a minimum core of high school courses recommended for preparation for college.

(b) The board shall communicate this information at least annually to public school superintendents, who shall make copies available each year to public school students enrolled in grades seven through twelve (7-12).

(c) The board may revise the list of high school courses from time to time, as needed.

(d) The Department of Higher Education shall use a student's grade point average calculated as set forth under § 6-15-903 when making scholarship awards for the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and for the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-101 is amended to read as follows:
6-18-101. Qualifications for valedictorian and salutatorian.

(a)(1) Only a student who has successfully completed a minimum core of high school courses shall be eligible for the honor of serving as a valedictorian or salutatorian of his or her graduating class based on class ranking as set forth under § 6-15-903.

(2) Only a student who has successfully completed the minimum core of high school courses with a minimum grade point, calculated as set forth under § 6-15-903, established by the school district or its equivalent shall be eligible for distinction as an honor graduate of a senior class in a high school in this state.

(b) For the purpose of meeting the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the student must complete the minimum core of courses recommended by the State Board of Higher Education and the State Board of Education pursuant to § 6-61-217 enlisted during the period of his enrollment in high school.

(c) Only a student who is enrolled in a course of study containing the minimum core of high school courses recommended by the coordinating board and the state board pursuant to § 6-61-217 shall be eligible for membership in the National Honor Society or any equivalent academic honor society.

(d) A student who is a member of any academic honor society on August 13, 1993, shall be exempt from the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005(b)(6)(A), concerning eligibility for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(6)(A) The applicant who graduates from an Arkansas high school after December 31, 2001, must have achieved the following:

(i) A grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale ~~in the set of core curriculum courses~~ calculated as set forth under § 6-15-903,

if enrolling at an approved four-year institution; or

(ii) A grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale ~~in the set of core curriculum courses~~ calculated as set forth under § 6-15-903, if enrolling at an approved two-year institution.

(iii)(a) These revised grade point average requirements may be reduced to no lower than a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale by a rules change by the Department of Higher Education if it is determined by the department, based on the most recent evaluation of the program's operation, that the change to a 3.0 or 2.75 grade point average on a 4.0 scale would unduly reduce the number of low-income or disadvantaged students who would otherwise be eligible for the program."

(b) At the Department of Higher Education's discretion, the Department of Higher Education may make such a reduction for admissions to institutions with a high percentage of students receiving full Pell grants upon petition to the Department of Higher Education by the institution.

The Amendment was read _____

By: Representative Anderson
KAC/TAT - 01-16-2004 16:25
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Chief Clerk