

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

As Engrossed: H3/8/17  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1459

5 By: Representative C. Douglas  
6 By: Senator B. Johnson  
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN THE AWARDING OF  
10 COURSE CREDITS; TO ALLOW A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO  
11 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN THAT ENABLES A STUDENT  
12 TO EARN COURSE CREDITS BY DEMONSTRATING SUBJECT  
13 MATTER COMPETENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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16 **Subtitle**

17 TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN THE AWARDING OF  
18 COURSE CREDITS; AND TO ALLOW A PUBLIC  
19 SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT  
20 A PLAN THAT ENABLES A STUDENT TO EARN  
21 COURSE CREDITS BY DEMONSTRATING SUBJECT  
22 MATTER COMPETENCY.  
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2, is amended  
28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-15-216. Flexibility in awarding course credit.

30 (a)(1) Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, a public school  
31 district may submit a plan for approval to the Department of Education to  
32 award units of high school course credit based on a demonstration of subject  
33 matter competency instead of, or in combination with, completing hours of  
34 classroom instruction.

35 (2) The plan shall include a method for recording demonstrated  
36 subject matter competency on high school transcripts.



1           (b) Upon approval, a public school district shall not be in violation  
2 of any requirement in the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public  
3 Schools and School Districts that units of credit be awarded for a minimum  
4 number of clock hours if the public school district awards units of credit  
5 based on a demonstration of subject matter competency instead of, or in  
6 combination with, completing hours of classroom instruction if the awarding  
7 of credit is in compliance with the public school district's approved plan.

8           (c) The department may promulgate rules to implement this section,  
9 including without limitation guidelines to assist public school districts in  
10 transitioning to awarding credits as provided under this section.

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12                                   */s/C. Douglas*

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15                                   **APPROVED: 04/04/2017**  
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