

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 478

5 By: Senators J. English, J. Sturch
6 By: Representative Della Rosa
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
10 CONCERNING WEIGHTED CREDIT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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14 TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
15 CONCERNING WEIGHTED CREDIT.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-902 is amended to read as follows:

21 6-15-902. Grading scale – Exemptions – Special education classes.

22 (a) The following grading scale shall be used by all public secondary
23 schools in the state for all courses, except advanced placement courses,
24 approved courses for weighted credit, and courses offered under the
25 International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme:

- 26 (1) A = 90-100;
- 27 (2) B = 80-89;
- 28 (3) C = 70-79;
- 29 (4) D = 60-69; and
- 30 (5) F = 59 and below.

31 (b)(1) Each letter grade shall be given a numeric value for the
32 purpose of determining grade average.

33 (2) Except for advanced placement courses, approved courses for
34 weighted credit, courses offered under the ~~program~~ International
35 Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, and honors courses, the numeric value for
36 each letter grade shall be:



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

6 (c)(1) The State Board of Education shall: ~~adopt~~
 7 (A) Adopt appropriate equivalents for advanced placement
 8 and college courses; and ~~shall recommend~~
 9 (B) Recommend a uniform grading structure for honors
 10 courses.

11 (2) Weighted credit shall be allowed for advanced placement
 12 courses and courses offered under the ~~program~~ International Baccalaureate
 13 Diploma Programme if:

14 (A) The student takes the entire advanced placement course
 15 or the entire course offered in the ~~program~~ International Baccalaureate
 16 Diploma Programme in a particular subject;

17 (B) The student completes the applicable test offered by
 18 the College Board for advanced placement courses at the end of the advanced
 19 placement course, or the applicable test offered by the International
 20 Baccalaureate at the time prescribed by the organization; and

21 (C)(i) ~~The~~ A teacher of an advanced placement course meets
 22 Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and:

23 (a) Attends at least one (1) of the following
 24 trainings no less than one (1) time every five (5) years:

25 (1) a College Board Advanced Placement
 26 Summer Institute no less than one (1) time every five (5) years;

27 (2) College Board-endorsed training; or

28 (3) Other similarly rigorous training
 29 approved by the department; 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 ~~(c) Attends College Board-endorsed training at~~
 34 ~~intervals recommended by the College Board; or.~~

35 (ii) ~~The~~ A teacher of ~~the~~ a course offered under the
 36 ~~program~~ International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme meets Arkansas teacher

1 licensure requirements and attends the training required by the ~~organization~~
2 International Baccalaureate.

3 (3) The department may approve a course for weighted credit if
4 the course:

5 (A) Exceeds the curriculum standards for a nonweighted
6 credit class; or

7 (B) Meets or exceeds the standards of a comparable
8 advanced placement class.

9 (4) The department in collaboration with the Department of
10 Career Education may approve a career and technical course for weighted
11 credit if the course:

12 (A) Exceeds the curriculum standards for a nonweighted
13 class; and

14 (B) Leads to an approved industry recognized
15 certification.

16 ~~(3)(A)(5)(A)~~ The A local school district board of directors may
17 ~~decide whether to~~ adopt a policy to allow high school students in the public
18 school district to take college courses for weighted credit equal to the
19 numeric grade awarded in advanced placement courses, courses offered under
20 the program, and honors classes.

21 (B)(i) If a local school district board of directors
22 adopts a policy ~~as set forth in~~ under subdivision ~~(e)(3)(A)~~ (c)(5)(A) of this
23 section, the school district ~~must~~ shall apply to the ~~Department of Education~~
24 ~~through the Assistant Commissioner for Accountability for approval of courses~~
25 ~~to be designated "concurrent enrollment college courses"~~ department for
26 approval.

27 (ii) ~~The An~~ application under subdivision
28 (c)(5)(B)(i) of this section shall be reviewed for approval to assign a
29 numeric grade value, which may include weighted credit, based on the
30 following:

31 (a) A letter from the superintendent of the
32 public school district or principal of the public school describing how the
33 course exceeds expectations for coursework required under the Standards for
34 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts; and

35 (b) The grade level or levels of public school
36 students who will be enrolled in the course.

1 (d) A public school district ~~shall have the option of using~~ may use
2 the grading scale in this section in the public school district's elementary
3 schools.

4 (e) The department may promulgate rules to implement this section.

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