

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.

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-094

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H3/26/07

86th General Assembly

**A Bill**

Regular Session, 2007

HOUSE BILL 2712

By: Representative M. Martin

Referred to  
Education Committee- House  
by the House of Representatives  
on 03/30/2007

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

*AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR EQUI TABLE TREATMENT OF  
ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND OTHER COLLEGE  
LEVEL COURSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.*

**Subtitle**

*AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR EQUI TABLE  
TREATMENT OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES  
AND OTHER COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES IN  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS.*

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-902 is amended to read as follows:*

*6-15-902. Grading scale - Exemptions - Special education classes.*

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

*(1) A = 90-100;*

*(2) B = 80-89;*

*(3) C = 70-79;*

- 1           (4) *D = 60-69; and*
- 2           (5) *F = 59 and below.*

3           (b) *Each letter grade shall be given a numeric value for the purpose*  
4 *of determining grade average. Except for advanced placement courses, courses*  
5 *offered under the program, and honors courses, the numeric value for each*  
6 *letter grade shall be:*

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

12          (c)(1) *The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate*  
13 *equivalents for advanced placement and college courses and shall recommend a*  
14 *uniform grading structure for honors courses.*

15          (2) *Weighted credit shall be allowed for advanced placement*  
16 *courses and courses offered under the program if:*

17               (A) *The student takes the entire advanced placement course*  
18 *or the entire course offered in the program in a particular subject;*

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

23               (C)(i) *The teacher of the advanced placement course meets*  
24 *Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and:*

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

27                       (b) *Completes an additional training plan for*  
28 *advanced placement within three (3) years of commencing the additional*  
29 *training plan; or*

30                       (ii) *The teacher of the course offered under the*  
31 *program meets Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and attends the*  
32 *training required by the organization.*

33          (3)(A) *The local school board may decide whether to adopt a*  
34 *policy to allow high school students in the district to take college courses*  
35 *for weighted credit equal to the numeric grade awarded in advanced placement*  
36 *courses, courses offered under the program, and honors classes.*

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

7 (i) A letter from the superintendent of the district  
 8 or principal of the school describing how the course exceeds expectations for  
 9 coursework required under the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public  
 10 Schools; and

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

13 (4) A local school board and the Department of Education shall  
 14 allow weighted credit for the following courses if the student takes the  
 15 entire course and completes the applicable test for the course:

16 (A) An endorsed concurrent enrollment course; and

17 (B) Certain advanced mathematics and science courses that  
 18 are determined by the Department of Higher Education to be eligible for  
 19 weighted credit pursuant to rules established by the Arkansas Higher  
 20 Education Coordinating Board.

21 ~~(d) [Repealed.]~~

22 ~~(e)~~(d) A school district shall have the option of using the grading  
 23 scale in this section in the district's elementary schools.

24  
 25  
 26 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 8 is amended  
 27 to read as follows:

28 SUBCHAPTER 8 -- ARKANSAS ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

29  
 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) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education;

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

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

33 ~~(8)-(7)~~ (7) "Program" means the Arkansas Advanced Placement ~~and~~  
 34 ~~International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program.~~

35  
 36 6-16-804. Established - Subsidies - Rules and regulations.

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

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

9 (c) Subject to legislative appropriations, a teacher participating in  
10 the advanced placement program, ~~in the International Baccalaureate Diploma~~  
11 ~~Program,~~ or in the preadvanced placement program may be awarded subsidized  
12 teacher training for advanced placement courses at a cost not to exceed six  
13 hundred fifty dollars (\$650) per teacher.

14 (d)(1) Contingent upon legislative appropriation and the availability  
15 of funding, the state may pay in full, or on a pro rata basis as determined  
16 under subdivision (d)(2) of this section, the cost of the advanced placement  
17 test fee ~~or the equivalent test fee under the International Baccalaureate~~  
18 ~~Diploma Program, or both.~~

19 (2) The State Board of Education may create a sliding scale  
20 based on family income.

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

23  
24 6-16-805. Funding.

25 (a) The awards granted under the provisions of this subchapter for  
26 both advanced placement ~~and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program~~  
27 may be funded by donations, grants, or legislative appropriation.

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

30 (c) The Commissioner of Education may solicit and receive donations  
31 and grants for the purpose of making awards.

32  
33 ~~6-16-806. Treatment as advanced placement course.~~

34 ~~Any high school course offered under the International Baccalaureate~~  
35 ~~Diploma Program shall be treated the same as an advanced placement course,~~  
36 ~~including for the following purposes:~~

1                   ~~(1) Weighted credit;~~  
2                   ~~(2) The Arkansas Advanced Placement and the International~~  
3 ~~Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program Act of 1995; and~~  
4                   ~~(3) Reporting requirements.~~

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/s/ M. Martin

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