

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
RULES GOVERNING GRADING AND COURSE CREDIT

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BUREAU OF
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DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
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CHAPTER 1:
REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND DEFINITIONS

1-1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

1-1.01 These Rules are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-216, 6-15-902, 6-16-801 et seq., 6-16-1201 et seq., 6-18-223, Acts 745 and 1118 of 2017, and Acts 429, 456, and 632 of 2019.

1-2.00 DEFINITIONS

1-2.01 "Additional Training Plan" (ATP) requires Advanced Placement (AP) and Pre-AP teachers to attend appropriate College Board training. Teachers in the plan have up to three (3) years to complete this requirement.

1-2.02 "Advanced Placement (AP)" courses are those courses taught following guidelines as provided for Advanced Placement courses by The College Board. Advanced Placement courses provide the opportunity for students to take a national examination through which they may qualify for college/university level credit.

1-2.03 "Advanced Placement Course" means a high school preparatory course for a College Board Advanced Placement ~~test Exam~~ that incorporates all topics specified by The College Board and the Educational Testing Service on ~~its standard~~ the syllabus for a given subject area and is approved ~~by~~ through The College Board and Educational Testing Service.

1-2.04 "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education that meets the requirements of the definition under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-85-402.

1-2.05 "College Board" means ~~the~~ The College Board ~~and Educational Testing Service~~, a mission-driven not-for-profit organization.

1-2.06 "College Board Advanced Placement ~~Test Exam~~" means ~~the Advanced Placement test administered by The College Board and Educational Testing Service~~; a

standardized exam designed to measure how well a student has mastered the content and skills of a specific AP course. An Advanced Placement Exam is administered by Educational Testing Service on behalf of The College Board.

1-2.07 "College Courses" are courses that are offered and taught under the direction of an accredited institution of higher education. Students may qualify for concurrent credit for such courses. For a concurrent college course to receive a weighted grade, it must be approved through the process described in these rules and regulations.

1-2.08 "Division" means the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

1-2.09 "Elementary school" is a school having any combination of one or more grades from kindergarten through grade 6.

1-2.10 "Endorsed concurrent enrollment course" means a college level course offered by an institution of higher education in this state, that upon completion would qualify for academic credit in both the institution of higher education and a public high school that:

1-2.10.1 Is one of the four core areas of math, English, science, and social studies; and

1-2.10.2 Meets the requirements of ~~Chapter 5, Section 5-8.04~~ 4.00 of these Rules; and

1-2.10.3 Is listed in the Arkansas Course Transfer System of the Division of Higher Education.

1-2.10.4 This definition does not affect the ability of school districts to award concurrent credit for those courses which comply with the requirements of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-223.

1-2.11 A "Home-schooled student" means a student legally enrolled in an Arkansas home school.

1-2.12 "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB)" means an international education program offered by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).

1-2.13 "International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program Courses" are those

taught following guidelines as provided for IB courses by the IB Organization. IB courses provide the opportunity for students to take a national examination.

1-2.14 "National School Lunch Student" means those students from low socioeconomic backgrounds as indicated by eligibility for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq. and Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-2303.

1-2.15 "Pre-Advanced Placement" course means a middle school, junior high school, or high school ~~level~~ course that specifically prepares students to enroll and to participate in an Advanced Placement course.

1-2.16 "Private institution" is defined as an institution of higher education accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

1-2.17 "Secondary school" is any school containing one or more grades from 7 through 12 or any middle school having any combination of grades 5-8 with the exception of a school having only grade 5, grade 6, or the combination of grades 5-6.

1-2.17.1. A student in grades 9-12 is considered "enrolled" in a public secondary school so long as he/she is counted for average daily membership of the school pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-2303(3)(C).

1-2.18 "Special education" refers to the designation of a student who has been through the identification and selection process and has an approved Individualized Education Plan that guides placement in instruction.

1-2.19 "Standards-based grading" is a system of reporting which focuses on student learning and the demonstration of competency or mastery of a set of standards.

1-2.1920 "Weighted Credit" means additional quality points for designated AP and IB courses that will be contingent upon meeting the requirements set forth in Chapter 6 of this rule. "Weighted Credit" also means additional quality points for courses approved by the Division that meet or exceed the standards of a

comparable AP course or for approved career and technical education (CTE) courses, as set forth in Chapter 4 of this rule.

1-2.21 “Weighted Credit and AP Training Approval Committee” means a review committee composed of Division program directors and advisors with AP and content expertise, including but not limited to personnel in DESE’s curriculum and gifted and talented offices.

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
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CHAPTER 2:
UNIFORM GRADING SCALES

2-1.00 PURPOSE

- 2-1.01 The purpose of this Chapter is to establish the uniform grading scales to be used by all public secondary schools in the state for regular courses.
- 2-1.02 This Chapter establishes the numeric value given to each letter grade for the purpose of determining grade average in all public secondary schools in the state for regular courses.
- 2-1.03 This Chapter provides an optional grading scale for public elementary schools.

2-2.00 GRADING SCALE AND NUMERICAL VALUES

- 2-2.01 The following scale is to be the Uniform Grading Scale and numeric values for secondary schools and the optional Uniform Grading Scale for elementary schools. Grades earned in courses will be assigned the following numeric values when such courses are used to compute student grade point average.
- A 90 – 100 = 4 points
B 80 – 89 = 3 points
C 70 – 79 = 2 points
D 60 – 69 = 1 point
F 0 – 59 = 0 points
- 2-2.02 Student grades should reflect the knowledge and skills demonstrated by the student through class assignments, tests, presentations, and projects that reflect the Arkansas Academic Standards. The purpose of grading is to communicate how well a student has achieved the learning objectives or criteria for a class.
- 2-2.03 A public school district may use the grading scale in this section in the public school district's elementary schools or standards-based grading.

2-2.04 Standards based grading and reporting may be used for secondary schools as long as the district has established criteria to equate to the Uniform Grading Scale in 2-2.01. Methods for recording and reporting competency maybe used as long as the district has an approved CDM application.

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DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
RULES GOVERNING GRADING AND COURSE CREDIT

CHAPTER 3:
FLEXIBILITY IN AWARDING HIGH SCHOOL COURSE CREDIT

3-1.00 AWARDING CREDIT BY DEMONSTRATED MASTERY

3-1.01 Credit by Demonstrated Mastery is the process by which a student may earn credit for a high school course by demonstrating a deep understanding of the content without course enrollment or the minimum of 120 clock hours required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

3-1.02 A public school district may submit a Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) application for approval to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to award units of high school course credit based on a demonstration of subject matter competency instead of, or in combination with, completing hours of classroom instruction.

3-1.02.1 Weighted credit is not available for CDM.

3-1.03 Students shall demonstrate mastery through a multi-phase assessment, consisting of:

3-1.03.1 Phase 1: A standard examination assessing course standards, and

3-1.03.2 Phase 2: At least one artifact which requires the student to apply knowledge and skills relevant to the content standards.

3-1.03.3 Students who are unable to meet the established minimum score in Phase I shall not progress to Phase 2.

3-1.04 The CDM process is designed to allow students to demonstrate competency of a required graduation credit and provide the opportunity for the student to take additional courses. The CDM process is not designed for whole groups of students and shall not replace the general accelerated pathways provided for advanced students.

3-1.05 Each public school district shall form a committee to review submissions of work to determine if the student has demonstrated sufficient competency to meet the standards for credit in the course.

3-1.06 Upon approval, a public school district shall not be in violation of any requirement in the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts that units of credit be awarded for a minimum number of clock hours if the public school district awards units of credit based on a demonstration of subject matter competency instead of, or in combination with, completing hours of classroom instruction if the awarding of credit is in compliance with the public school district's approved plan.

3-1.07 The Department of Education and its Divisions shall monitor schools offering CDM to ensure compliance with these rules.

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
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CHAPTER 4:
COURSES FOR WEIGHTED CREDIT

4-1.00 GENERAL PROVISIONS

4-1.01 The following weighted scale is to be used for Advanced Placement courses, courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and Division approved weighted courses.

A = 90-100= 5 points;
B = 80-89= 4 points;
C = 70-79= 3 points;
D = 60-69= 2 points;
F = 59 and below=0 points.

4-1.02 Courses approved by the Division for weighted credit must meet or exceed the standards of a comparable Advanced Placement class *or exceed the curriculum standards for a non-weighted course.*

4-1.03 The Division in collaboration with the Division of Career and Technical Education may approve a career and technical course for weighted credit if the course:

4-1.03.1 Exceeds the curriculum standards for non-weighted course in a pathway; and

4-1.03.2 Leads to an approved industry recognized certification.

4-2.00 SCHOOL DISTRICT WEIGHTED CREDIT POLICIES FOR COLLEGE COURSES

4-2.01 A local school district board of directors may adopt a policy to allow high school students in the public school district to take college courses for weighted credit equal to the numeric grade awarded in Advanced Placement courses, courses offered under the International Baccalaureate program, and approved weighted classes.

4-2.02 If a local school board adopts such a policy, the district ~~must~~ shall apply to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education DESE Weighted Credit and AP Training Approval Committee for approval of concurrent enrollment college courses to be designated as a weighted course, under Chapter 5 of these rules.

4-2.03 An application shall be reviewed for approval to assign a numeric grade value, which may include weighted credit, based on the following:

4-2.03.1 A letter from the superintendent of the public school district or principal of the public school describing how the course exceeds expectations for coursework required under the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts;

4-2.03.2 The grade level or levels of public school students who will be enrolled in the course; and

4-2.03.3 Clear evidence that the concurrent credit course is substantially the same as an Advanced Placement Course.

4-2.03.4 *Statement of learner outcomes, objectives and/or learning expectations based on revised curriculum frameworks where appropriate.*

4-2.03.5 *Description of instructional strategies demonstrating problem solving, critical thinking, and higher order learning processes. This description should include at least one exemplary lesson.*

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CHAPTER 5:
CONCURRENT CREDIT

5-1.00 ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES 9-12

5-1.01 Any student who is enrolled in grades 9-12 in an Arkansas public school shall be eligible to enroll in a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution of higher education in accordance with the rules ~~and regulations~~ adopted by the college or university.

5-1.01.1 If an Arkansas public college or university or private institution of higher education requires a college course placement score greater than a score of 19 on the ACT, *a comparable score on the SAT*, or an equivalent measure, the public school student must meet that institution's concurrent admissions and course placement requirements. Districts ~~are encouraged to~~ *should* consider the ACT benchmark readiness scores in addition to the minimum requirement for proper identification and placement of students in college coursework.

5-1.01.2 A student in grade 12 who possesses at least an ACT sub-score of 17, *or a comparable score on the SAT*, in English, reading or mathematics (or an equivalent measure) may enroll in remedial/developmental education courses in English, reading and mathematics at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution of higher education.

5-1.01.3 Any institution of higher education offering a remedial/developmental education course(s) must inform the public school student, verbally and in writing, that successful completion of remedial/developmental education courses in English, reading and mathematics at one college or university does not guarantee college course placement at another Arkansas college or university, unless there is a written/signed college course placement agreement with the other Arkansas college or

university. A list of the institutions of higher education with a signed college course placement agreement must be 1) included in the signed Memorandum of Agreement between the school district and college/university, 2) published in the current college/university catalog, and 3) posted on the college/university website.

5-1.02 Any public school student in grades 9-12 who enrolls in and successfully completes a course(s) offered by a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution of higher education shall be entitled to receive both high school and college grades and credit (credit earned by CLEP examination may not be counted as high school credit) toward graduation, as outlined in these regulations rules. Participation in the concurrent high school and college credit program must be documented by a written agreement between:

5-1.02.1 The public school student, and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) if the public school student is under the age of eighteen (18):

5-1.02.2 The public school or public school district where the student is enrolled; and

5-1.02.3 The publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year College or university, or private institution of higher education.

5-1.03 Students must comply with applicable enrollment or graduation requirements of the public high school the student attends while the student participates in the concurrent credit program. Public school students who previously earned high school credit through the concurrent credit program shall maintain the earned credit through graduation, regardless of whether the student subsequently transfers to a public school or school district that opts not to participate in the concurrent credit program.

5-1.04 Three semester hours of college credit taken by a student in grades 9-12 at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution of higher education shall be the equivalent of one unit of high school credit in the same subject area. A three-semester hour remedial/developmental education course shall be the equivalent of one-half unit of credit for a high school career focus elective. A remedial/developmental

education course cannot be used to meet the core subject area/unit requirements in English and mathematics.

5-1.05 College credit earned at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university or private institution of higher education by an eligible student shall be counted by the high school toward graduation, including credit earned through summer terms.

5-1.06 Public school students in grade 12 who are enrolled in remedial/developmental education courses will not be counted for public higher education funding purposes.

5-1.07 Nothing in these rules shall be construed to require Arkansas public schools, publicly supported community colleges, technical colleges, four-year colleges or universities, or private institutions of higher education to participate in a concurrent credit program.

5-1.08 Any public school district and publicly supported or private institution of higher education that chooses to participate in a concurrent credit program shall implement and carry out the concurrent credit program in accordance with the rules of the Arkansas State Board of Education and the policies of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

5-2.00 ELIGIBILITY

5-2.01 To be eligible to enroll in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course, the student must:

5-2.01.1 Be admitted by the institution of higher education as a non-degree or non-certificate seeking student; and

5-2.01.2 Meet all of the prerequisites for the course in which he or she is enrolled; and

~~5-2.01.3 Credit for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course may only be awarded by the institution of higher education offering the course.~~

5-2.02 All accelerated or advanced course work shall be reflected in a student success plan, including but not limited to AP and International Baccalaureate courses, CTE courses and endorsed concurrent credit courses.

5-3.00 TUITION

5-3.01 A state-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher education may offer a reduced tuition rate for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses offered by the institution of higher education to high school students.

5-3.02 A student who qualifies under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) shall not be required to pay any of the costs up to a maximum of six credit hours of endorsed concurrent enrollment courses that are taught:

5-3.02.1 On the grounds of the public school district in which the student is enrolled; and

5-3.02.2 By a teacher employed by the public school district in which the student is enrolled who meets the requirements of Section 5-4.03 of this Chapter.

5-3.03 The costs for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses for a student who qualifies under NSLA shall be paid:

5-3.03.1 By the public school district in which the student is enrolled;

5-3.03.2 By the institution of higher education offering the course;
or

5-3.03.3 Through a cost-sharing agreement between the public school district and the institution of higher education.

5-3.04 The student shall be responsible for all costs of higher education courses taken for concurrent college credit, unless the costs for these courses are paid by the public school district, a college/university scholarship, a grant, or a private foundation. If the costs for a higher education course(s) are paid by the public school district, a college/university scholarship, a grant, or a private foundation, a signed agreement must exist between the public school district, the external entity or foundation, and the publicly-supported or private institution of higher education.

5-3.05 A student who attends a private school or a home school and enrolls in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course shall not be charged unless the public

school district also charges public school students for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course. A public school district may provide transportation to a private school or home-schooled student to or from the location of the academic course.

5-4.00 ENDORSED CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT COURSE REQUIREMENTS

5-4.01 The course must be a course offered by an institution of higher *learning education* in this state that is:

5-4.01.1 Approved through the institution of higher *learning's education's* normal process; and

5-4.01.2 Listed in the institution of higher *learning's education's* catalog.

5-4.02 The course content and instruction must meet or exceed the same standards and adopt the same learning outcomes as those developed for a course taught on the campus of the institution of higher education, including without limitation:

5-4.02.1 The administration of any departmental exams applicable to the course; and

5-4.02.2 The use of substantially the same book and syllabus as is used at the college level.

5-4.03 An Instructor of an endorsed concurrent enrollment course shall have:

5-4.03.1 No less than a master's degree that includes at least eighteen (18) hours of completed course work in the subject area of the endorsed concurrent enrollment course;

5-4.03.2 The instructor's credentials shall be approved by the academic unit or chief academic officer of the institution of higher education offering the endorsed concurrent enrollment course; and

5-4.03.3 The relevant credentials and experience necessary to teach from the syllabus approved by the institution of higher education granting the course credit.

5-4.04 The institution of higher education offering the course must:

5-4.04.1 Provide to the course instructor staff development, supervision and evaluation; and

5-4.04.2 Provide the students enrolled in the course with:

5-4.04.2.1 Academic guidance counseling; and

5-4.04.2.2 The opportunity to utilize the on-campus library or other academic resources of the institution of higher education.

5-4.05 To be eligible to enroll in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course, the student must:

5-4.05.1 Be admitted by the institution of higher education as a non-degree or non-certificate seeking student; and

5-4.05.2 Meet all of the prerequisites for the course in which he or she is enrolled.

5-4.065 Credit for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course may only be awarded by the institution of higher education offering the course and, when subject to an agreement with the college offering the course, must be accepted by the high school which the student attends.

5-4.076 Institutions of higher education may collaborate to provide the course and award course credit.

5-4.08 Concurrent credit shall be reflected in a student success plan.

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
RULES GOVERNING GRADING AND COURSE CREDIT

CHAPTER 6:
ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
DIPLOMA INCENTIVE PROGRAM

6-1.00 PURPOSE

6-1.01 The purpose of these Rules is to establish, organize, and administer a program designed to improve the course offerings available to middle school, junior high school and high school students throughout the state. The program established under this act will provide advanced educational courses that are easily accessible and will prepare students for admission to and success in a postsecondary educational environment.

6-1.02 To ensure that each school district provides high school students with the opportunity to enroll in at least one (1) College Board Advanced Placement course in the four (4) core areas of English, math, science, and social studies, and to outline teacher training requirements.

6-2.00 TEACHER TRAINING

6-2.01 A teacher of an AP course must meet Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements and meet the requirements of either Section 6-2.01.1 or 6-2.01.2:

6-2.01.1 Attend at least one (1) of the following trainings no less than one (1) time every five (5) years:

6-2.01.1.1 College Board Advanced Placement Summer Institute;

6-2.01.1.2 College Board-endorsed training; or

6-2.01.1.3 Other similarly rigorous training approved by ~~a committee~~ comprised of Division program directors and advisors with AP and content expertise-the DESE Weighted Credit and AP Training Approval Committee.

6-2.01.2 Complete an Additional Training Plan (ATP) for Advanced Placement within three (3) years of commencing the ATP.

6-2.01.2.1 The ATP must be filed with the Division's Office of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement in the first year of the teaching assignment, and an update must be filed in the additional years the teacher is in need of the plan, for up to two additional years.

6-2.01.2.2 When a teacher completes the requirements of the ATP, completion documentation must be submitted to the Division's Office of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement.

6-2.01.2.3 Districts that do not have a teacher who completes the ATP within 3 years may be found in violation of the Standards for Accreditation of Public Schools and School Districts and may be held responsible for the cost of the associated AP exams.

~~6-2.02 Students enrolled in classes of teachers on an ATP earn the weighted credit contingent upon taking the appropriate AP exam.~~

6-2.032 A teacher of a Pre-AP course must meet Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements and meet the requirements of either Section 6-2.03.1 or 6-2.03.2:

6-2.032.1 Attend at least one (1) of the following trainings no less than one (1) time every five (5) years:

6-2.032.1.1 College Board-endorsed training in the teacher's content area; or

6-2.032.1.2 Other similarly rigorous training approved by ~~a committee comprised of Division program directors and advisors with AP and content expertise~~ the DESE Weighted Credit and AP Training Approval Committee.

6-2.032.2 Complete an Additional Training Plan (ATP) for *pre*-Advanced Placement within three (3) years of commencing the ATP.

6-2.032.2.1 The ATP must be filed with the Division's Office of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement in the first year of the teaching assignment, and an update must be filed in the additional years the teacher is in need of the plan, for up to two additional years.

6-2.032.2.2 When a teacher completes the requirements of the ATP, completion documentation must be submitted to the Division's Office of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement.

6-2.043 A teacher of a course offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program must meet Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements and attend the training required by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).

6-2.054 Weighted Credit for designated AP and IB courses will be contingent upon the AP teacher obtaining training as outlined in Sections 6-2.01 ~~and 6-2.02~~ of this Chapter and the IB teacher obtaining training as outlined in Section 6-2.043 of this Chapter; the student taking the entire AP or the entire IB course offered in a particular subject; the student completing the applicable test offered by the College Board for AP courses at the end of the AP course or the applicable test offered by the IBO at the time prescribed by the IBO.

6-3.00 TEACHER TRAINING SUBSIDY

6-3.01 Teachers of Advanced Placement Courses, Pre-Advanced Placement Courses, or International Baccalaureate Diploma courses, must meet Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements and participate in training program(s) outlined in ~~6-2.001, 6-2.02, 6-2.03, and 6-2.04~~ of these Rules.

6-3.02 For a teacher designated by a local school district as an instructor of an Advanced Placement course, Pre-Advanced Placement Course, or an International Baccalaureate Diploma course, training costs may be covered by a grant administered by the host of the Advanced Placement Summer Institute to cover the cost of tuition, expenses and materials of approved training programs, not to exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650) per teacher contingent upon appropriated funding. Priority for training will be given to teachers who have not been previously trained. Training not covered by grant funds will be the responsibility of the district, if training is required as a part of the teacher's job requirements.

6-3.03 A teacher who is assigned to teach more than one Advanced Placement, Pre-Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate course (i.e., biology, chemistry, etc.) may apply for more than one teacher training stipend, contingent upon appropriated funding.

6-4.00 EQUIPMENT GRANT

6-4.01 Contingent upon appropriated funding, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may annually set aside funds from which schools providing Advanced Placement courses or International Baccalaureate Diploma courses may apply for a one-time equipment and materials grant.

6-4.02 Equipment and materials grants will be administered by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Division will establish a request for proposal form and disseminate it to each local school district each year that funds are available.

6-4.03 A school may apply for a one-time equipment grant for each Advanced Placement course or International Baccalaureate course (Two sections of a course such as Advanced Placement American History are considered one course).

6-4.04 School districts with more than one high school providing Advanced Placement courses or International Baccalaureate courses, may apply for the one-time equipment grants for each high school.

6-5.00 FEES FOR STUDENTS

6-5.01 Contingent upon legislative appropriation and the availability of funding, the state may pay in full or on a pro-rata basis the cost of the Advanced Placement Exam fee or the equivalent test fee under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, or both, for students who have successfully completed an associated Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Diploma course that meets the requirements of this Chapter.

6-5.02 Each school requesting fee payment of students taking Advanced Placement Exams and/or International Baccalaureate exams must submit to the Division a copy of the invoice as generated and submitted to either the College Board or the International Baccalaureate Organization upon completion of the exams. The

Division will contract with the College Board and Educational Testing Services for payment of AP exams contingent upon legislative approval and the availability of funds.

6-6.00 SCHOOL AWARD FOR EXAM SCORES

6-6.01 Depending on the availability of funds, schools may be awarded up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each score of a three (3) or better earned by a student on any Advanced Placement test or the equivalent on any International Baccalaureate Program Exam.

6-6.02 Schools must utilize the funds awarded from students' scores on the Advanced Placement ~~test exam~~ *in* for the schools' Advanced Placement program and funds awarded from students' scores on the International Baccalaureate ~~tests exams~~ *in* for the schools International Baccalaureate program.

6-6.03 An annual report with detailed expenditures of funds awarded to schools from students' scores on the Advanced Placement exam(s) and International Baccalaureate ~~tests exams~~ will be submitted to the Office of Gifted and Talented, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education by July 1 of each school year.

6-7.00 DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

6-7.01 Districts are required to offer a minimum of one AP course per year in each of the four (4) core courses of English, math, science, and social studies.

6-7.02 All accelerated or advanced course work shall be reflected in a student success plan, including but not limited to AP and International Baccalaureate courses, CTE courses and endorsed concurrent credit courses.

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RULES GOVERNING
UNIFORM GRADING SCALES FOR PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND
FOR OPTIONAL USE IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

October 2005

1.00 — Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools

- 1.01 — These Rules shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education's Rules Governing Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools and for Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools.
- 1.02 — These Rules are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Arkansas Code Ann. § 6-11-105 and Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-902 and Act 2152 of 2005.

2.00 — Purpose

- 2.01 — These Rules establish the uniform grading scales to be used by all public secondary schools in the state for regular courses, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, approved weighted honors courses and approved weighted concurrent credit college courses.
- 2.02 — These Rules establish the numeric value given to each letter grade for the purpose of determining grade average in all public secondary schools in the state for regular courses, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, approved weighted concurrent credit college courses and approved weighted honors courses.
- 2.03 — These Rules provide an optional uniform grading scale for public elementary schools.

3.00 — Definitions

- 3.01 — For the purpose of these Rules, a "secondary school" is any school containing one or more grades from 7 through 12 or any middle school having any combination of grades 5-8 with the exception of a school having only grade 5, grade 6, or the combination of grades 5-6.
- 3.02 — An "elementary school" is a school having any combination of one or more grades from kindergarten through grade 6.

~~3.03 "Advanced Placement" courses are those courses taught following guidelines as provided for Advanced Placement courses by The College Board. Advanced Placement courses provide the opportunity for students to take a national examination through which they may qualify for college/university level credit.~~

~~3.04 "International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program" courses are those taught following guidelines as provided for IB courses by the IB Organization. IB courses provide the opportunity for students to take a national examination.~~

~~3.05 "College Courses" are courses that are offered and taught under the direction of an accredited institution of higher education. Under separate Rules and Regulations students may qualify for concurrent credit for such courses. For a concurrent college course to receive a weighted grade, it must be approved through the process described in these rules and regulations.~~

~~3.06 "Honors Courses" are courses provided through an accredited high school that have been approved by a Department of Education Committee as honors courses. Honors courses must stress higher order learning and be offered in addition to curriculum offerings required by the Standards for Accreditation, Arkansas Public Schools.~~

~~3.07 A student is designated as "special education" if he/she has been through the identification and selection process and has an approved Individualized Education Plan that guides placement in instruction.~~

4.00 Grading scale and numerical values

~~4.01 The following scale is to be the Uniform Grading Scale and numeric values for secondary schools and the optional Uniform Grading Scale for elementary schools. Grades earned in college courses will be assigned the following numeric values when such courses are used to compute student grade point average.~~

~~A 90—100 = 4 points~~

~~B 80—89 = 3 points~~

~~C 70—79 = 2 points~~

~~D 60—69 = 1 point~~

- ~~_____ F 0 - 59 = 0 points~~
- ~~_____ 4.02 The following scale is to be the Uniform Grading Scale and numeric values for Advanced Placement courses, courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and approved honors courses.~~
- ~~_____ A 90 - 100 = 5 points~~
- ~~_____ B 80 - 89 = 4 points~~
- ~~_____ C 70 - 79 = 3 points~~
- ~~_____ D 60 - 69 = 2 points~~
- ~~_____ F 0 - 59 = 0 points~~
- ~~_____ 4.03 Weighted credit shall be allowed for Advanced Placement courses and courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program if:~~
- ~~_____ (A) The student takes the entire Advanced Placement course or the entire course offered in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in a particular subject;~~
- ~~_____ (B) The student completes the applicable test offered by the College Board for Advanced Placement courses at the end of the Advanced Placement course, or the applicable test offered by the International Baccalaureate Organization at the time prescribed by the International Baccalaureate Organization; and~~
- ~~_____ (C) (i) The teacher of the Advanced Placement course meets Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and:~~
- ~~_____ (a) Attends a College Board Advanced Placement Summer Institute no less than once every five (5) years; or~~
- ~~_____ (b) Completes an additional training plan for Advanced Placement, within three (3) years of commencing the additional training plan; or~~
- ~~_____ (ii) The teacher of the course offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program meets Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and attends the training required by the International Baccalaureate Organization.~~

5.00 — Approval of weighted honors courses and/or weighted concurrent

~~credit college courses.~~

5.01 — A local school district may apply to the Department of Education for approval of courses to be designated as weighted “honors courses.”

5.02 — The local school board may decide whether or not to adopt a local policy to allow high school students in the district to take college courses for weighted credit equal to the numeric grade awarded in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and Arkansas Department of Education approved honors classes.

5.03 — If a local school board adopts such a policy, the district must apply to the Department of Education for approval of “concurrent enrollment college Courses” to be designated as a weighted course. The application shall be reviewed for approval to assign a numeric grade value, which may include weighted credit.

5.04 — Applications for weighted honors courses and/ or weighted concurrent college courses will be reviewed for approval based on the following criteria:

— 1. Letter from the superintendent or principal describing how the course exceeds expectations for coursework required under the Standards for Accreditation, Arkansas Public Schools.

2. Grade level(s) of students who will be enrolled in the course.

3. Statement of learner outcomes, objectives, and/or learning expectations based on revised curriculum frameworks where appropriate.

4. Listing of unit topics to be included in the course.

5. Description of instructional strategies demonstrating problem solving, critical thinking, and higher order learning processes. This description should include at least one exemplary lesson.

6. Description of performance based assessment strategies to be implemented in the classroom.

7. Clear evidence that the concurrent credit course is substantially the same as an Advanced Placement Course.

Agency # 005

Arkansas Department of Education
Rules for Advanced Placement and International
Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program
And
Rules Governing Advanced Placement Courses in the Four Core Areas in Arkansas
High Schools with Guidelines for Endorsed Concurrent Enrollment Courses
August 2007

1.00—Regulatory Authority

1.01—~~These Rules shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program and Rules Governing the Availability of Advanced Placement Courses in the Four Core Areas In High School With Guidelines for Endorsed Concurrent Enrollment Courses.~~

1.02—~~The State Board of Education enacted these Rules pursuant to its authority under Ark. Code Ann. §§6-11-105, 6-15-902, 6-16-801 et. seq., 6-15-2006, 6-16-1201 et. seq. and Act 936 of the 86th Arkansas General Assembly.~~

2.00—Purpose

2.01—~~The purpose of these Rules is to establish, organize, and administer a program designed to improve the course offerings available to middle school, junior high school and high school students throughout the state. The program established under this act will provide advanced educational courses that are easily accessible and will prepare students for admission to and success in a postsecondary educational environment.~~

2.02—~~To ensure that each school district provides high school students with the opportunity to enroll in at least one (1) College Board Advanced Placement course in the four (4) core areas of English, math, science, and social studies, and to outline teacher training requirements.~~

3.00—Definitions

3.01—~~“Additional Training Plan” (ATP) requires Advanced Placement (AP) and Pre-AP teachers to attend appropriate College Board training. Teachers in the plan have up to three (3) years to complete this requirement~~

3.02—~~“Advanced Placement Course” means a high school preparatory course for a College Board Advanced Placement test that incorporates all topics specified by the College Board and the Educational Testing Service on its standard syllabus for a given subject area and is approved by the College Board and Educational Testing Service.~~

3.03—~~“College Board Advanced Placement Test” means the Advanced Placement test administered by the College Board and Educational Testing Service.~~

3.04—~~“College Board” means the College Board and Educational Testing Service.~~

~~3.05 “Endorsed concurrent enrollment” course means a college level course offered by an institution of higher education in this state, that upon completion would qualify for academic credit in both the institution of higher education and a public high school that:~~

~~3.05.1 Is one (1) of the four (4) core areas of math, English, science, and social studies;~~

~~3.05.2 Meets the requirements of Sections 10.00 — 10.06 of these Rules; and~~

~~3.05.3 Is listed in the Arkansas Course Transfer System of the Department of Higher Education.~~

~~These Rules do not affect the ability of school districts to award concurrent credit for those courses which comply with the requirements of Ark. Code Ann §6-18-223 and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit for students who have completed the eighth grade.~~

~~3.06 “Department” means the Arkansas Department of Education, General Education.~~

~~3.07 “International Baccalaureate Diploma Program” (IB) means an international education program offered by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).~~

~~3.08 “Pre Advanced Placement” course means a middle school, junior high school, or high school level course that specifically prepares students to enroll and to participate in an Advanced Placement course.~~

~~3.09 “Program” means the Arkansas Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program.~~

~~3.10 “Vertical Team” means a group of educators from different grade levels in a given discipline who work cooperatively to develop and implement a vertically aligned program aimed at helping students from diverse backgrounds acquire the academic skills necessary for success in the Advanced Placement Program and other challenging courses.~~

~~3.11 “Weighted Credit” means additional quality points for designated AP and IB courses that will be contingent upon the teacher having obtained or is currently participating within the ATP program as required by Section 4.01 and 4.02 of this rule and as defined in the Uniform Grading Scale Rule 4.03 and 4.05 for IB teachers. Students desiring weighted credit must also take the applicable AP and/or IB examination after having completed the entire compatible AP and/or IB course.~~

4.00 — Teacher Training

- 4.01 — A teacher of an AP course must meet Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements and must attend a College Board Advanced Placement Summer Institute. Teachers must attend no less than once every five (5) years to stay current on curriculum and program developments.
- 4.02 — A teacher of an AP course who has not obtained the required training as stated in 4.01, will complete an Additional Training Plan (ATP) for Advanced Placement. The teacher will have three (3) years to complete the required training. Students enrolled in classes of teachers on an ATP earn the weighted credit contingent upon taking the appropriate AP exam (3.12).
- 4.03 — A teacher of a Pre-AP course must meet Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements and must attend a College Board sponsored or endorsed training institute or workshop in the teacher's content area. Pre-AP teachers must attend a College Board sponsored or endorsed training institute, or workshop in the teacher's content area no less than once every five (5) years to stay current on curriculum and program developments.
- 4.04 — A teacher of a Pre-AP course who has not obtained the required training as stated in 4.03, will complete an Additional Training Plan (ATP) for Pre-Advanced Placement. The teacher will have three (3) years to complete the required training.
- 4.05 — The teacher of the course offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program meets Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements and attends the training required by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).
- 4.06 — Weighted Credit for designated AP and IB courses will be contingent upon the AP teacher obtaining training as outlined in 4.01 and 4.02 and the IB teacher obtaining training as outlined in 4.05; the student taking the entire AP or the entire IB course offered in a particular subject; the student completing the applicable test offered by the College Board for AP courses at the end of the AP course or the applicable test offered by the IBO at the time prescribed by the IBO.

5.00 — Teacher Training Subsidy

- 5.01 — Teachers of Advanced Placement Courses, Pre-Advanced Placement Courses, or International Baccalaureate Diploma courses, must meet Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements and participate in training program(s) outlined in 4.01, 4.02, 4.03, 4.04 and 4.05 of these Rules.
- 5.02 — A teacher designated by a local school district as an instructor of an Advanced Placement course, Pre-Advanced Placement Course, or an International Baccalaureate Diploma course, may apply to the Department for a grant to cover cost of tuition, expenses and materials of approved training programs, not to exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650) per teacher contingent upon appropriated funding. Priority for training will be given to teachers who have not been previously trained. When a district offers a Pre-Advanced Placement program, the courses must

~~follow a clearly recognizable sequence, i.e., 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th grade Pre-Advanced Placement English, 11th grade AP English Language and Composition, and 12th grade English Literature and Composition.~~

~~5.03 A teacher who is assigned to teach more than one Advanced Placement, Pre-Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate course (i.e., biology, chemistry, etc.) may apply for more than one teacher training stipend, contingent upon appropriated funding.~~

~~5.04 An Instructor of an endorsed concurrent enrollment course shall have:~~

~~5.04.1 No less than a master's degree that includes at least eighteen (18) hours of completed course work in the subject area of the endorsed concurrent enrollment course;~~

~~5.04.2 The instructor's credentials shall be approved by the academic unit or chief academic officer of the institution of higher education offering the endorsed concurrent enrollment course; and~~

~~5.04.3 The relevant credentials and experience necessary to teach from the syllabus approved by the institution of higher education granting the course credit.~~

~~6.00 Equipment Grant~~

~~6.01 Contingent upon appropriated funding, the Arkansas Department of Education may annually set aside funds from which schools providing Advanced Placement courses or International Baccalaureate Diploma courses may apply for one-time equipment and materials grant.~~

~~6.02 Equipment and materials grants will be administered by the Department of Education. The Arkansas Department of Education will establish a request for proposal form and disseminate it to each local school district each year that funds are available.~~

~~6.03 A school may apply for a one-time equipment grant for each Advanced Placement course or International Baccalaureate course. (Two sections of a course such as Advanced Placement American History would be considered as one course.)~~

~~6.04 School districts with more than one high school providing Advanced Placement courses or International Baccalaureate courses, may apply for the one-time equipment grants for each high school.~~

~~7.00 Fees For Students~~

~~7.01 Contingent upon legislative appropriation and the availability of funding, the state may pay exam fees in full, or on a pro-rata basis the cost of the Advanced Placement Exam fee or the equivalent test fee under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, or both.~~

~~7.02 Each school requesting fee payment of students taking Advanced Placement Exams and/or International Baccalaureate exams must submit to the Department a copy of the invoice as generated and submitted to either the College Board or the International Baccalaureate Organization upon completion of the exams. The Department will contract with the College Board and Educational Testing Services for payment of AP exams contingent upon legislative approval and the availability of funds.~~

~~8.00 School Award for Exam Scores~~

~~8.01 Depending on the availability of funds, schools may be awarded up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each score of a three (3) or better earned by a student on any Advanced Placement test or the equivalent on any International Baccalaureate Program Exam.~~

~~8.02 Schools must utilize the funds awarded from students' scores on the Advanced Placement test in the schools' Advanced Placement program and funds awarded from students scores on the International Baccalaureate tests in the schools International Baccalaureate program.~~

~~8.03 An annual report with detailed expenditures of funds awarded to schools from students' scores on the Advanced Placement exam(s) and International Baccalaureate tests will be submitted to the Office of Gifted and Talented, Arkansas Department of Education by July 1 of each school year.~~

~~9.00 Required Advanced Placement Courses~~

~~9.01 Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, it is required that districts begin phasing in, over the next four (4) school years, AP courses with a minimum of one course per year in the four (4) core courses to have fully implemented the required four (4) core courses in English, math, science, and social studies by the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.~~

~~9.02 AP teachers should begin attending AP summer institutes when available in order to be ready for the 2008-2009 course implementation deadline.~~

~~9.03 In order to prepare students for the rigor inherent in AP courses, it is recommended to begin with the 2004-2005 school year by offering Pre-AP courses to prepare students for the demands of AP coursework. Aligned with the four (4) required AP courses, the Pre-AP courses will be fully operational by the 2008-2009 school year.~~

~~10.00 Endorsed Concurrent Enrollment Course Requirements~~

~~10.01 The course must be a course offered by an institution of higher learning in this state that is:~~

~~10.01.1 Approved through the institution of higher learning's normal process; and~~

- ~~10.01.2 Listed in the institution of higher learning's catalog.~~
- ~~10.02 The course content and instruction must meet the same standards and adopt the same learning outcomes as those developed for a course taught on the campus of the institution of higher education, including without limitation:~~
 - ~~10.02.1 The administration of any departmental exams applicable to the course; and~~
 - ~~10.02.2 The use of substantially the same book and syllabus as is used at the college level.~~
- ~~10.03 The course must be taught by an instructor with the qualifications required under Sections 5.04 5.04.3 of these Rules.~~
- ~~10.04 The institution of higher education offering the course must:~~
 - ~~10.04.1 Provide to the course instructor staff development, supervision and evaluation; and~~
 - ~~10.04.2 Provide the students enrolled in the course with:~~
 - ~~10.04.2.1 Academic guidance counseling; and~~
 - ~~10.04.2.2 The opportunity to utilize the on-campus library or other academic resources of the institution of higher education.~~
- ~~10.05 To be eligible to enroll in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course, the student must:~~
 - ~~10.05.1 Be admitted by the institution of higher education as a non-degree or non-certificate seeking student; and~~
 - ~~10.05.2 Meet all of the prerequisites for the course in which he or she is enrolled.~~
- ~~10.06 Credit for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course may only be awarded by the institution of higher education offering the course and must be accepted by the high school which the student attends.~~
- ~~10.07 Institutions of higher education may collaborate to provide the course and award course credit.~~

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RULES GOVERNING CONCURRENT COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR
STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE EIGHTH GRADE

October 10, 2011

1.0 — PURPOSE

- 1.01 — ~~The purpose of these rules is to establish the requirements and procedures concerning concurrent college and high school credit for students who have completed the eighth grade.~~

2.0 — REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- 2.01 — ~~These rules shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit for Students Who Have Completed the Eighth Grade.~~
- 2.02 — ~~These rules are enacted pursuant to the authority of the State Board of Education under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-11-105 and Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-223.~~

3.0 — DEFINITIONS

- 3.01 — ~~A student who “has successfully completed the eighth grade” is a student who has been promoted to the ninth grade.~~

-
- 3.02 — ~~A student in grades 9-12 is considered "enrolled" in a public secondary school so long as he/she is counted for average daily membership of the school pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-2303(3)(C).~~

- 3.03 — ~~“Private institution” is defined as an institution of higher education accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.~~

4.0 — ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE EIGHTH GRADE

- 4.01 — ~~Any student who is enrolled in grades 9-12 in an Arkansas public school shall be eligible to enroll in a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the college or university.~~
- 4.02 — ~~Any public school student in grades 9-12 who enrolls in and successfully completes a course(s) offered by a publicly supported community college,~~

~~technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution shall be entitled to receive both high school and college grades and credit (credit earned by CLEP examination may not be counted as high school credit) toward graduation, as outlined in these regulations.~~

- ~~4.03—Students must comply with applicable enrollment or graduation requirements of the public high school.~~
- ~~4.04—Three semester hours of college credit taken by a student in grades 9–12 at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution shall be the equivalent of one-half unit of high school credit.~~
- ~~4.05—College credit earned at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university or private institution by an eligible student shall be counted by the high school toward graduation, including credit earned through summer terms.~~
- ~~4.06—The student shall be responsible for all costs of higher education courses taken for concurrent college credit.~~

5.0—2011-2012 PILOT PROJECT

- ~~5.01—For the 2011-2012 school year only, three semester hours of college credit taken by a public school student in grade 12 at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution shall be the equivalent of one unit of high school credit in the same subject area which shall count toward high school graduation.~~
- ~~5.02—For the 2011-2012 school year, a student in grade 12 who possesses an ACT score of 17 or 18 may enroll in developmental education courses in English, reading or mathematics at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution.~~
 - ~~5.02.1—A three-semester hour developmental education course shall be the equivalent of one-half unit of credit for a high school career focus elective.~~
 - ~~5.02.2—Public school students in grade 12 who successfully complete developmental education courses in English, reading and/or mathematics and who have an exit exam score of 19 or higher on the ACT or an equivalent measure in that subject area will meet minimum state requirements for placement in college-level courses upon admission to a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution.~~

~~5.02.3 If an Arkansas public college or university or private institution requires a course placement score greater than a score of 19 on the ACT or an equivalent measure, the public school student in grade 12 must meet that institution's admissions/placement requirements.~~

~~5.02.4 Public school students in grade 12 who are enrolled in developmental education courses will not be counted for higher education funding purposes.~~

~~5.03 Participation in this pilot program is voluntary. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require Arkansas public schools, publicly supported community colleges, technical colleges, four year colleges or universities, or private institutions to participate in this pilot program.~~

~~5.04 This pilot program will be reviewed by the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. In July 2012, the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education shall present its findings to the Arkansas State Board of Education.~~

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1413

By: Representative Lowery

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING PRIVATE SCHOOL AND HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS; TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OR AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FROM CHARGING A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR A HOME SCHOOL STUDENT FOR THE COST OF AN ENDORSED CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT COURSE UNLESS A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OR OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT IS ALSO CHARGED FOR THE COURSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OR AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FROM CHARGING A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR A HOME SCHOOL STUDENT FOR THE COST OF AN ENDORSED CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT COURSE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-232, concerning enrollment of private school or home school students in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course at a public school, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(e) If a student who attends a private school or a home school enrolls in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course as defined by § 6-16-1202(2), the student shall not be charged for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course unless the public school district also charges public school students or open-enrollment public charter school students for the endorsed concurrent



enrollment course.

APPROVED: 3/12/19

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H2/18/19

92nd General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2019

HOUSE BILL 1419

By: Representative Lowery

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENROLLMENT OF A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENT IN AN ACADEMIC COURSE AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL; TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO ALLOW A PRIVATE-SCHOOL OR A HOME-SCHOOL STUDENT TO ENROLL IN AN ACADEMIC COURSE; TO ALLOW A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO SEEK A WAIVER FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO ALLOW A PRIVATE-SCHOOL OR A HOME-SCHOOL STUDENT TO ENROLL IN AN ACADEMIC COURSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ENROLLMENT IN AN ACADEMIC COURSE AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-232(a) and (b), concerning a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school policy allowing a nonpublic student to enroll in an academic course, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A Except as provided under subsection (d) of this section, a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school ~~may~~ shall



1 adopt a policy ~~to allow~~ that allows a student who attends a private school or
2 a home school to enroll in an academic course at a public school or an open-
3 enrollment public charter school if the student resides in the public school
4 district where the public school or open-enrollment public charter school is
5 located.

6 (b) A policy adopted by a public school district or open-enrollment
7 public charter school under subsection (a) of this section may:

8 (1)(A) ~~Set admissions criteria determined by the public school~~
9 ~~district or open-enrollment public charter school; Include provisions that~~
10 apply to a private school or home-schooled student who is enrolled in an
11 academic course at a public school or open-enrollment public charter school,
12 including without limitation provisions regarding:

13 (i) Academic or grade-level prerequisites;

14 (ii) Attendance;

15 (iii) Testing;

16 (iv) Coursework;

17 (v) Grades; and

18 (vi) Conduct.

19 (B) The provisions included under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of
20 this section shall be consistent with provisions included in the public
21 school district's or open-enrollment public charter school's policies that
22 apply to public school students;

23 (2) Allow a student who attends a private school or a home
24 school to enroll in one (1) or more academic courses in a semester; and

25 (3) Limit enrollment if the enrollment of a private school or
26 home-schooled student would:

27 (A) ~~To certain academic courses or grade levels~~ Create a
28 financial loss for the public school district or open-enrollment public
29 charter school; or

30 (B) ~~Based on other criteria determined by the public~~
31 ~~school district or open enrollment public charter school~~ Violate any state or
32 federal law or any rule established by the Department of Education.

33
34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-232(d), concerning a public school
35 district or open-enrollment public charter school policy allowing a nonpublic
36 student to enroll in an academic course, is amended to read as follows:

1 ~~(d) This section does not require a~~ A public school district or an
2 open-enrollment public charter school ~~to allow a student who attends a~~
3 ~~private school or a home school to enroll in an academic course at a public~~
4 ~~school or an open-enrollment public charter school~~ may seek a waiver from the
5 department from the requirements under this section.

6
7 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-232, concerning the enrollment of
8 private school or home-schooled students in public school districts and open-
9 enrollment public charter schools, is amended to add additional subsections
10 to read as follows:

11 (e) A public school district or open-enrollment public charter school
12 under this section:

13 (1) May provide transportation for a private school or home-
14 schooled student to or from the location of the academic course; and

15 (2) Shall provide a final grade and transcript to each private
16 school or home-schooled student who completes an academic course in which the
17 student is enrolled at a public school or open-enrollment public charter
18 school.

19 (f)(1) A private school or home-schooled student is not considered
20 truant from a public school or open-enrollment public charter school under
21 this section due to unexcused absences from the academic course in which the
22 private school or home-schooled student is enrolled.

23 (2) However, a public school or open-enrollment public charter
24 school may drop a private school or home-schooled student from an academic
25 course in the event of excessive unexcused absences or any other violation of
26 policies regarding the academic course in which the private school or home-
27 schooled student is enrolled.

28 (g) This section does not apply to a statewide open-enrollment public
29 charter school that operates primarily as a virtual school.

30
31 /s/Lowery

32
33
34 **APPROVED: 3/12/19**

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S2/20/19 S2/26/19*
92nd General Assembly **A Bill**
Regular Session, 2019

SENATE BILL 343

By: Senator J. Sturch

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS CONCURRENT CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP; TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL USE OF
EXCESS LOTTERY PROCEEDS TO FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
CERTAIN STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN ENDORSED
CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT COURSES OR CERTIFICATE
PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS CONCURRENT
CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, is amended to add an
additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 4 – Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program

6-85-401. Creation.

There is created the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program.

6-85-402. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Approved institution of higher education” means an
institution of higher education that:

(A) Is approved by the Department of Higher Education to
participate in the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program;

(B) Offers at least a fifty percent (50%) discount on the



tuition and mandatory fees of an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program to a student who is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program, unless other opportunities are provided that lower the tuition and mandatory fees below fifty percent (50%); and

(C) Is a:

(i) State-supported two-year or four-year college or university; or

(ii) Private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university that has its primary headquarters located in Arkansas and that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds;

(2)(A) "Certificate program" means a program that is offered or made available to a student by an approved institution of higher education that leads to the obtainment of a certification or license.

(B) "Certificate program" does not include a program that is operated or sponsored by a third party;

(3)(A) "Endorsed concurrent enrollment course" means the same as defined in § 6-16-1202(2).

(B) "Endorsed concurrent enrollment course" does not include a program that is operated or sponsored by a third party; and

(4) "Student" means a person who has junior or senior status and who is enrolled at a:

(A) Public high school in Arkansas;

(B) Private high school in Arkansas; or

(C) Home school, as defined in § 6-15-501 et seq.

6-85-403. Eligibility.

(a) A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship under this subchapter for an academic semester or academic year during which the student is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program if the student:

(1) Is an Arkansas resident or, if the student is less than twenty-one (21) years of age, either the student or one (1) parent of the student is an Arkansas resident; and

(2)(A) Submits a student success plan as described under § 6-15-2911(b).

1 (B) The student success plan required under subdivision
2 (a)(3)(A) of this section for a student who is enrolled in an endorsed
3 concurrent enrollment course or certificate program shall:

4 (i) Be prepared in consultation with:

5 (a) School personnel, the student, and the
6 student's parent or legal guardian; or

7 (b) A college advisor; and

8 (ii) Include:

9 (a) An endorsed concurrent enrollment course
10 or certificate program that is relevant to the student's success plan; and

11 (b) Measures that ensure the successful
12 completion of the endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate
13 program in which the student is enrolled.

14 (b)(1) A student successfully completes an endorsed concurrent
15 enrollment course or a course taken towards the completion of a certificate
16 program under this subchapter if he or she completes the course or program
17 and receives a minimum letter grade of "C" or the equivalent.

18 (2)(A) A student who fails to successfully complete an endorsed
19 concurrent enrollment course or a course taken towards the completion of a
20 certificate program under this subchapter shall:

21 (i) Retain eligibility for a scholarship under this
22 subchapter; and

23 (ii) Enroll in only one (1) endorsed concurrent
24 enrollment course or course required for the completion of a certificate
25 program for the semester immediately following the semester in which the
26 student failed to successfully complete an endorsed concurrent enrollment
27 course or course taken towards the completion of a certificate program.

28 (B) However, if a student fails an endorsed concurrent
29 enrollment course or a course taken towards the completion of a certificate
30 program under this subchapter a second time, the student shall be ineligible
31 to reapply for a scholarship under this subchapter.

32 (c) A student whose enrollment in a vocational center is reimbursable
33 under § 6-51-305 is not eligible for a scholarship under this subchapter.

34
35 6-85-404. Funding.

36 (a) For an academic year, Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarships

under this subchapter shall be funded with any funds remaining after the Department of Higher Education allocates sufficient funding to award Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships under § 6-85-301 et seq., at a level equivalent to the awards made in the previous academic year.

(b)(1) A scholarship under this subchapter shall not be awarded for an academic year if:

(A) Less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) is available under subsection (a) of this section; or

(B) The department received a loan from the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program – Part 2, § 6-85-201 et seq., for the previous academic year.

(2) Any funds under subsection (a) of this section that are not disbursed for scholarships under this subchapter shall be carried over to the next academic year to be used for scholarships under this subchapter.

6-85-405. Distribution – Award amounts.

(a) If funds are available, the Department of Higher Education shall award Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarships to all students who meet the requirements under this subchapter.

(b)(1) The department shall distribute scholarships from the funds available in an equal amount to every approved institution of higher education that has enrolled a student eligible to receive a scholarship under this subchapter.

(2) The maximum scholarship award a student may receive in an academic year shall be the lesser of:

(A)(i) Five hundred dollars (\$500).

(ii) A scholarship awarded to a student who is eligible under § 6-85-403 shall be awarded in the amount of one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125) for each endorsed concurrent enrollment credit course or certificate program in which the eligible student is enrolled, up to two (2) endorsed concurrent enrollment credit courses or certificate programs per semester.

(B) The tuition and mandatory fees of the endorsed concurrent credit course or certificate program.

(3) A scholarship granted under this section may be awarded in

1 addition to any funds received for the enrollment in an endorsed concurrent
2 enrollment course under § 6-16-1204(e)(3).

3 (4) Unless a student's high school or community-based program
4 provides financial assistance for the cost of tuition and mandatory fees for
5 an endorsed concurrent enrollment course or certificate program, the
6 remaining cost of tuition and mandatory fees for an endorsed concurrent
7 enrollment course or certificate program is the responsibility of the
8 eligible student who is enrolled in the endorsed concurrent enrollment course
9 or certificate program.

10
11 6-85-406. Rules.

12 The Department of Higher Education shall promulgate rules to implement
13 this subchapter.

14
15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 23-115-801(b)(1), concerning the deposit of
16 lottery proceeds into the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program,
17 is amended to read as follows:

18 (b)(1)(A) On or before the fifteenth day of each month, the office
19 shall deposit the net proceeds from the lottery into one (1) or more trust
20 accounts at one (1) or more financial institutions.

21 (B)(i) The office shall establish ~~a trust account~~ accounts
22 for both the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et
23 seq., and the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401
24 et seq., in a financial institution into which the office shall transfer:

25 (a) Excess funding returned to the office
26 under § 6-85-212(e)(2)(B)(i) from the previous academic year; and

27 (b) Net proceeds remaining from the previous
28 academic year after the office:

29 (1) Transfers under subdivision (c)(2)
30 of this section the funds requested by the Department of Higher Education;
31 and

32 (2) Deposits the amount necessary into
33 the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 to
34 maintain an amount equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).

35 (ii) The funds transferred by the office into the
36 ~~trust account~~ accounts for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship

1 Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., and the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge
2 Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et seq., established under subdivision
3 (b)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall be used for:

4 (a) Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships;
5 and

6 (b) Any management fees charged by the
7 financial institution to manage the trust ~~account~~ accounts for scholarship
8 award supplements; and

9 (c) Arkansas Concurrent Challenge
10 Scholarships.

11 (iii) Annually, the office shall transfer to the
12 Department of Higher Education the funds from the previous academic year, if
13 any, that were transferred by the office into the trust ~~account~~ accounts for
14 the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., and
15 the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-401 et seq.,
16 under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(i) of this section for distribution of Arkansas
17 Workforce Challenge Scholarships and the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge
18 Scholarships.

19
20 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 23-115-802(c), concerning the use of funds
21 in the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account, is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 (c)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, if
24 net proceeds in any year are not sufficient to meet the amount allocated for
25 higher education scholarships, the account may be drawn upon to meet the
26 deficiency.

27 (2) The account shall not be drawn upon to fund Arkansas
28 Workforce Challenge Scholarships under the Arkansas Workforce Challenge
29 Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., or Arkansas Concurrent Challenge
30 Scholarships under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program, §
31 6-85-401 et seq.

32
33
34 /s/J. Sturch

35 **APPROVED: 3/13/19**
36

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 478

By: Senators J. English, J. Sturch
By: Representative Della Rosa

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING WEIGHTED CREDIT.

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, approved courses for weighted credit, and courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme:

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

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

(2) Except for advanced placement courses, approved courses for weighted credit, courses offered under the ~~program~~ International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, and honors courses, the numeric value for 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(B) Leads to an approved industry recognized certification.

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

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

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

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

(b) The grade level or levels of public school 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.
5
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7 **APPROVED: 4/1/19**
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State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1646

By: Representative Cozart

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS
CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC
EDUCATION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 5, Subchapter, 1 is
repealed.

~~Subchapter 1 — Early Childhood Development Projects~~

~~6-5-101. Authorization.~~

~~(a) Any school district or any combination of school districts of this
state is authorized to join with a state-supported junior college, college,
or university, or any combination of state-supported junior colleges,
colleges, or universities in this state and develop a pilot or demonstration
project for early childhood development and teaching and to apply to the
Department of Education for approval and funding of the project.~~

~~(b) Any project to be approved must be a program combining both
childhood development for the children involved in the project and training
for teachers in the area of early childhood development.~~

~~6-5-102. Project guidelines.~~



~~(a) The Department of Education shall develop guidelines to assist school districts and colleges and universities in developing projects to be submitted for approval and funding pursuant to this subchapter.~~

~~(b) These guidelines will include, but will not be restricted to, criteria for:~~

- ~~(1) Instructional objectives;~~
- ~~(2) Classroom characteristics;~~
- ~~(3) Competence of the classroom workers;~~
- ~~(4) Evaluation of the program;~~
- ~~(5) Dissemination of program ideas and training procedures;~~
- ~~(6) Reports of progress and findings; and~~
- ~~(7) Age of children to be eligible for participation.~~

~~6-5-103. College role.~~

~~The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board will be apprised of the role of the colleges in these projects and will advise the Department of Education with respect to the efficient coordination of the college portions of the program.~~

~~6-5-104. Funding.~~

~~After approval, a program shall then be funded out of the funds appropriated in this subchapter in an amount as shall be approved by the Department of Education in consultation with the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-10-119 is amended to read as follows:

6-10-119. Medicaid billing.

(a)(1) By May 1 of each year, the ~~Special Education Section of the~~ Department of Education shall ~~determine which~~ identify school districts ~~that~~ are underperforming in the area of direct-service Medicaid billing.

(2) ~~Based on this determination, underperforming~~ The department shall direct identified school districts ~~shall be directed by the section to~~ increase direct-service Medicaid billing by district staff or enter into an agreement associate with an education service cooperative or other public or private entity for the provision of direct-service Medicaid billing services.

(b) The school district for which billing services are rendered shall

1 pay the education service cooperative providing the billing services an
 2 amount necessary to compensate the education service cooperative for costs
 3 associated with providing the services, ~~subject to the review and approval of~~
 4 ~~the section.~~

5 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict qualified
 6 public or private providers from developing, maintaining, or expanding
 7 service relationships with school districts.
 8

9 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-10-121(a)(1), concerning tornado safety
 10 drills, is amended to read as follows:

11 (a)(1) As used in this section, "public school" means:

12 (A) a A school that is part of a public school district
 13 under the control and management of a local school district board of
 14 directors; or

15 (B) An open enrollment public charter school.
 16

17 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-11-104(b), concerning meetings of the
 18 State Board of Education, is amended to read as follows:

19 (b) ~~The state board will meet each December to~~ In any of its meetings
 20 before the end of the calendar year, the state board shall determine the
 21 meeting dates for the following year.
 22

23 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-11-105(a)(3), concerning the powers and
 24 duties of the State Board of Education, is repealed.

25 ~~(3) Prescribe rules for the examination of pupils to detect~~
 26 ~~contagious and infectious diseases and physical defects;~~
 27

28 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-11-112 is amended to read as follows:

29 6-11-112. Power to make plans coordinating state and federal laws.

30 The State Board of Education is empowered to make plans, promulgate
 31 rules, and seek waivers for flexibility as necessary for this state to meet
 32 the requirements of a law enacted by Congress for general education,
 33 including without limitation the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
 34 1965, Pub. L. No. 89-10, as reauthorized by the ~~No Child Left Behind Act of~~
 35 ~~2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110, Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, or~~
 36 any supplementary federal regulations, directives, or decisions of the United

1 States Department of Education pertaining to that legislation.

2
3 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-11-119 is repealed.

4 ~~6-11-119. Correspondence courses.~~

5 ~~(a) The State Board of Education shall promulgate reasonable rules,~~
6 ~~regulations, and standards for the accreditation of persons, firms, schools,~~
7 ~~or educational institutions offering correspondence courses to the people of~~
8 ~~this state and may grant certificates of approval to those persons, firms,~~
9 ~~schools, or educational institutions offering correspondence courses that~~
10 ~~meet the approval of its rules, regulations, and standards.~~

11 ~~(b) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, school, or educational~~
12 ~~institution to advertise by newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, handbill, or other~~
13 ~~printed method published in this state or by radio or by television in this~~
14 ~~state the offering of any correspondence courses unless that person, firm,~~
15 ~~school, or educational institution shall have first registered with the State~~
16 ~~Board of Education and shall have been approved by the State Board of~~
17 ~~Education as an accredited correspondence school.~~

18 ~~(c)(1) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to all~~
19 ~~schools or educational institutions offering correspondence courses whether~~
20 ~~the schools are located in this state or in some other state.~~

21 ~~(2) However, these provisions shall not apply to those schools~~
22 ~~or educational institutions regulated by the State Board of Private Career~~
23 ~~Education or by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.~~

24 ~~(d) Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a violation~~
25 ~~and upon conviction shall be fined in the sum of not less than two hundred~~
26 ~~fifty dollars (\$250) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).~~

27
28 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-11-128(b), concerning school district use
29 of a software system other than the Arkansas Public School Computer Network,
30 is repealed.

31 ~~(b) After approval by the Department of Education, a school district~~
32 ~~may use a different software system at the school district level if:~~

33 ~~(1) The Department of Education determines that the school~~
34 ~~district's software meets the minimum reporting requirements provided by the~~
35 ~~Arkansas Public School Computer Network; and~~

36 ~~(2) The school district supplies all school district transaction~~

~~information to the Arkansas Public School Computer Network in a compatible format and in sufficient detail as required by the Department of Education.~~

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-11-128(c)(6), concerning a certification program for the Arkansas Public School Computer Network, is repealed.

~~(6)(A) Developing a certification program to certify:~~

~~(i) At least one (1) person in each school district as a certified APSCN financials user and trainer; and~~

~~(ii) At least one (1) person in each school district as a certified APSCN student management user and trainer.~~

~~(B) The certification process shall require an applicant for certification to successfully complete the following components, including without limitation:~~

~~(i) Courses in the application area;~~

~~(ii) Training in using the network's reporting tools; and~~

~~(iii) An examination that tests the applicant's knowledge and skills in the application area and the Arkansas Public School Computer Network's reporting tools.~~

~~(C) In a school district of five hundred (500) or fewer students, one (1) person may be certified in both financials and student management; and~~

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-11-131 is repealed.

~~6-11-131. Divisions of the Department of Education.~~

~~(a)(1) Effective July 1, 2005, the Department of Education shall consist of a central administration and the following divisions:~~

~~(A) The Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services;~~

~~(B) The Division of Human Resources;~~

~~(C) The Division of Learning Services; and~~

~~(D) The Division of Research and Technology.~~

~~(2) Effective April 11, 2006, the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, established under § 6-21-112, shall be under the department.~~

~~(3) Effective July 1, 2007, the Division of Public School Accountability, established under § 6-15-102, shall be under the department.~~

1 ~~(b)(1) The Division of Public School Accountability shall have such~~
2 ~~duties as provided by law.~~

3 ~~(2) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and~~
4 ~~Transportation shall have duties as provided by law and such responsibility~~
5 ~~and programs as may be assigned by the Commission for Arkansas Public School~~
6 ~~Academic Facilities and Transportation.~~

7 ~~(3) The remaining divisions shall have such responsibility and~~
8 ~~programs as may be assigned to them by the Commissioner of Education.~~

9 ~~(c)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, each~~
10 ~~division of the department shall be under the direction, control, and~~
11 ~~supervision of the Commissioner of Education.~~

12 ~~(2) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and~~
13 ~~Transportation shall be under the direction, control, and supervision of the~~
14 ~~Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation.~~

15
16 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1505(d)(1), concerning creation of a
17 school district, is amended to read as follows:

18 (d)(1) The ad ~~valorum~~ valorem tax rate of the new school district
19 shall remain the same as that of the original school district until an
20 election is held in the new school district and a rate of tax is approved and
21 shall be allocated in the same proportion between maintenance and operation
22 and debt service as was allocated by the original school district.

23
24 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1505(e)(2), concerning creation of a
25 school district, is amended to read as follows:

26 (2) Enter into ~~lease with purchase~~ lease-purchase agreements,
27 revolving loans under 6-20-801 et seq., ~~term loans, post-date~~ post-dated
28 warrants, or installment contracts;

29
30 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1505(h)(2), concerning creation of a
31 school district, is amended to read as follows:

32 (2) At the school election or any subsequent school election, a
33 new school district may present to the qualified electors of the new school
34 district a proposed ad ~~valorum~~ valorem tax for the maintenance and operation
35 of schools and the retirement of indebtedness.

SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1606 is repealed.

~~6-13-1606. Development of plan to track student progress.~~

~~(a) Following the administrative consolidation or administrative annexation under §§ 6-13-1601 — 6-13-1603, 6-13-1604 [repealed], and 6-13-1605 [repealed] effective before December 1, 2004, and before any consolidation, annexation, detachment, approval of a conversion charter, or any other type of reclassification or reorganization of a school district after December 1, 2004, each receiving district or resulting district and the Department of Education shall develop a plan to track the educational progress of all students from the affected district and the following subgroups of those students:~~

~~(1) Students who have been placed at risk of academic failure as required under § 6-15-1602;~~

~~(2) Economically disadvantaged students;~~

~~(3) Students from major racial and ethnic groups; and~~

~~(4) Specific population groups as identified by the State Board of Education, the department, the affected district, or the receiving district as target groups for closing the achievement gaps.~~

~~(b) The receiving or resulting district shall obtain and retain all student records from the affected district for the five (5) years immediately preceding the administrative consolidation or administrative annexation, specifically including, but not limited to:~~

~~(1) Individual student records;~~

~~(2) Attendance records;~~

~~(3) Enrollment records;~~

~~(4) Assessment records for assessments required under the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq., specifically including benchmark assessments and end-of-course assessments; and~~

~~(5) ACT and SAT results and records.~~

~~(c) The school district shall report to the department information determined by the department as necessary to track the educational progress of all students from the affected district as a subgroup and the following subgroups of those transferred students:~~

~~(1) Students who have been placed at risk of academic failure as required under § 6-15-1602;~~

~~(2) Economically disadvantaged students; and~~

~~(3) Students from major racial and ethnic groups.~~

~~(d) By November 1, 2005, and by November 1 each year thereafter, the department shall file a written report with the Governor, the chair of the House Committee on Education, the chair of the Senate Committee on Education, and the secretary of the Legislative Council assessing the educational progress of all students from the affected district as a subgroup and the following subgroups of those transferred students:~~

~~(1) Students who have been placed at risk of academic failure as required under § 6-15-1602;~~

~~(2) Economically disadvantaged students; and~~

~~(3) Students from major racial and ethnic groups.~~

SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 6-15-902(c)(2)(C)(i), concerning grading scales, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(c) Attends a College Board endorsed training at intervals recommended by the College Board; or

SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(b)(4)(B), concerning the contents of a school performance report, is amended to read as follows:

(B) Of that total, the number who meet each of the following criteria:

~~(i) Highly qualified teacher;~~

~~(ii) Identified as proficient or above under the Teacher Excellence and Support System for the school; and~~

~~(iii)~~(ii) Certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1601(g)(2), concerning the duties of the Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap in Arkansas, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Monitor the Department of Education's efforts to comply with federal guidelines on improving the academic achievement of the disadvantaged, specifically ~~including, but not limited to,~~ including without limitation the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 80-10, as reauthorized by the Every

1 Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95;

2
3 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1601(h)(2), concerning the Commission
4 on Closing the Achievement Gap in Arkansas, is amended to read as follows:

5 (2) Relevant technical experts to assist in drafting and monitoring
6 the department's efforts to comply with federal guidelines on improving the
7 academic achievement of the disadvantaged, specifically including without
8 limitation the ~~No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.~~
9 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 80-10, as
10 reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95;
11

12 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2502(d)(3)(C)(iii), concerning the
13 criteria for designating education renewal zones and participating schools,
14 is repealed.

15 ~~(iii) The school demonstrates an inability to hire~~
16 ~~and retain highly qualified teachers as defined by the state plan for~~
17 ~~compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §~~
18 ~~6301 et seq.;~~
19

20 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 6-16-1405(a)(4), concerning the approval
21 of digital learning providers, is amended to read as follows:

22 (4)(A) Utilizes ~~highly~~ qualified teachers to deliver digital
23 learning courses to public school students.

24 (B) A ~~highly~~ qualified teacher ~~that~~ who delivers digital
25 learning courses under this subchapter is not required to be licensed as a
26 teacher or administrator by the state board, but shall meet the minimum
27 qualifications for teaching in a core content area established by rules of
28 the state board.
29

30 SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 6-17-704(d), concerning school district
31 professional development plans, is amended to read as follows:

32 (d) The professional development offerings may include approved
33 conferences, workshops, institutes, individual learning, mentoring, peer-
34 coaching, study groups, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
35 certification, distance learning, micro-credentialing approved by the
36 department, internships, and college or university course work.

1
2 SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 6-17-705(e), concerning professional
3 development credit, is amended to read as follows:

4 (e) A person who holds any license issued by the State Board of
5 Education may obtain credit for required professional development through a
6 micro-credentialing process approved by the department.

7 (f) The State Board of Education state board shall promulgate the
8 rules necessary for the proper implementation of this section.

9
10 SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 6-17-707(e), concerning the Arkansas
11 Online Professional Development Initiative, is amended to read as follows:

12 (e)(1) The department shall determine the content of and preapprove
13 all professional development courses or programs delivered by the network
14 that qualify for professional development credit as required by the Standards
15 for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts or teacher
16 licensure requirements.

17 (2) The department may approve professional development obtained
18 through a micro-credentialing process.

19
20 SECTION 24. Arkansas Code § 6-17-919(b), concerning the warrants
21 issued without a valid teaching license, is amended to read as follows:

22 (b)(1) The school district superintendent and the superintendent's
23 surety shall be liable for any warrants that he or she countersigns in
24 payment of teachers' salaries unless and until the state board has issued a
25 valid license or the department Department of Education has provided the
26 documentation required by subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section.

27 (2) An online copy that is accessible on a website designated by
28 the department is sufficient evidence of the issuance of a valid license or
29 the documentation required by subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section.

30
31 SECTION 25. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 3, is
32 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

33 6-18-320. Unsafe school choice program.

34 (a) Any student that becomes the victim of a violent criminal offense
35 while in or on the grounds of an Arkansas public elementary, secondary, or
36 public charter school or who is attending a persistently dangerous public

1 school shall be allowed to attend a safe public school within the local
2 educational agency under rules established by the State Board of Education.

3 (b) The state board may promulgate rules to administer this section.

5 SECTION 26. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 8 is
6 repealed.

7 Subchapter 8 — School Safety Patrols

9 ~~6-18-801. Rules and regulations.~~

10 ~~The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations by~~
11 ~~which every school district board of directors in this state may organize,~~
12 ~~regulate, and supervise school safety patrols for the purpose of:~~

13 ~~(1) Influencing and encouraging the other pupils to refrain from~~
14 ~~crossing public highways and streets at points other than at regular~~
15 ~~crossings;~~

16 ~~(2) Influencing and encouraging pupils to refrain from crossing~~
17 ~~at regular crossings when the presence of traffic would render such crossing~~
18 ~~unsafe; and~~

19 ~~(3) Assisting drivers of school buses in maintaining safety~~
20 ~~rules and in ascertaining that pupils are received and discharged from buses~~
21 ~~in safety.~~

23 ~~6-18-802. Liability.~~

24 ~~No liability shall attach either to the State Board of Education, the~~
25 ~~school district, a superintendent, teacher, safety patrol member, or other~~
26 ~~school authority by virtue of the organization, maintenance, or operation of~~
27 ~~a school safety patrol organized, maintained, and operated under authority of~~
28 ~~and in compliance with this subchapter.~~

30 ~~6-18-803. Powers and duties.~~

31 ~~(a)(1) Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize or~~
32 ~~permit the use of any safety patrol member for the purpose of directing~~
33 ~~vehicular traffic.~~

34 ~~(2) However, this shall not prohibit the use of a flag or other~~
35 ~~approved signal by a safety patrol member for the purpose of indicating to a~~
36 ~~driver that school children are crossing the street.~~

~~(b) No safety patrol member shall be stationed in that portion of the highway intended for the use of vehicular traffic but shall perform his or her duties from the curb and sidewalk areas.~~

~~6-18-804. Age and consent requirements.~~

~~(a) No pupil shall be designated a safety patrol member under this subchapter unless he or she is eleven (11) years of age or older and has the written permission of a parent or guardian.~~

~~(b) Any teacher or board member using any pupil for safety patrol purposes without the written permission of a parent or guardian shall be guilty of a violation and upon conviction shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100) for each offense.~~

SECTION 27. Arkansas Code § 6-18-1005(a)(1)(L), concerning student guidance services, is amended to read as follows:

(L) Classroom guidance, which shall be limited to forty-minute class sessions, not to exceed three (3) per day ~~or~~ and not to exceed ten (10) per week; and

SECTION 28. Arkansas Code § 6-20-1908(d), concerning the length of fiscal distress status, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Except under ~~§ 6-20-1910(d)~~ § 6-20-1910(e), a school district shall not be allowed to remain in fiscal distress status for more than five (5) consecutive school years from the date that the school district was classified as being in fiscal distress status.

SECTION 29. Arkansas Code § 6-20-1908(i), concerning State Board of Education action regarding fiscal distress, is amended to read as follows:

(i) Except under ~~§ 6-20-1910(d)~~ § 6-20-1910(e), the state board shall consolidate, annex, or reconstitute any school district that fails to remove itself from the classification of a school district in fiscal distress within five (5) consecutive school years of classification of fiscal distress status unless the state board, at its discretion, issues a written finding supported by a majority of the state board, explaining in detail that the school district could not remove itself from fiscal distress due to impossibility

1 caused by external forces beyond the school district's control.

2
3 SECTION 30. Arkansas Code § 6-20-1910(d)(1), concerning state
4 assumption of authority of a school district in fiscal distress, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (d) If the Commissioner of Education assumes authority over a public
7 school district in fiscal distress under ~~subsection (a) of this section § 6-~~
8 20-1909, the state board may pursue the following process for returning a
9 public school district to the local control of its residents:

10 (1) During the second full school year following a ~~school~~
11 ~~district's classification as being in fiscal distress status~~ the assumption
12 of authority, the state board shall determine the extent of the school
13 district's progress toward correcting all issues that caused the
14 classification of fiscal distress;

15
16 SECTION 31. Arkansas Code § 6-41-407 is amended to read as follows:
17 6-41-407. Accommodation for students with sensory processing
18 difficulty.

19 When administering a state-mandated assessment or a state-mandated
20 test, the Department of Education and each school district shall allow a
21 student that has been evaluated through appropriate testing, including a
22 comprehensive eye examination by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist, and
23 identified as having difficulty with sensory processing in reaction to
24 oversensitivity to full spectrum light to use color overlays specific to the
25 student's oversensitivity that alter the contrast between the words and the
26 page so that the student can visually comprehend the words on a page of a
27 state mandated assessment or a state-mandated test, if made available by the
28 test developer.

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31 **APPROVED: 03/29/2017**
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State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/8/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1459

By: Representative C. Douglas
By: Senator B. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN THE AWARDING OF
COURSE CREDITS; AND TO ALLOW A PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT
A PLAN THAT ENABLES A STUDENT TO EARN
COURSE CREDITS BY DEMONSTRATING SUBJECT
MATTER COMPETENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2, is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

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

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

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



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

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

/s/C. Douglas

APPROVED: 04/04/2017

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S3/16/17 S3/23/17 H3/30/17*

91st General Assembly

Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 673

By: Senator Irvin

By: Representative Vaught

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING CONCURRENT CREDIT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING CONCURRENT CREDIT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-16-1204(e)(1)(B), concerning a reduced tuition rate for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses, is amended to read as follows:

(B) The reduction in tuition under subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section or any tuition paid by the institution of higher education under subdivision (e)(3)(B) of this section shall not be considered an institutional scholarship.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-16-1204(e), concerning tuition for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(3)(A) A national school lunch student, as defined in § 6-20-2303, shall not be required to pay any of the costs up to a maximum of six (6) credit hours of endorsed concurrent enrollment courses that are taught:

(i) On the grounds of the public school district in which the student is enrolled; and

(ii) By a teacher employed by the public school



district in which the student is enrolled.

(B) The costs for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section shall be paid:

(i) By the public school district in which the student is enrolled;

(ii) By the institution of higher education offering the course; or

(iii) Through a cost-sharing agreement between the public school district and the institution of higher education.

/s/Irvin

APPROVED: 04/07/2017