

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: H1/12/04 H1/21/04

Call Item 4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 27

5 By: Senator Bisbee
6 By: Representative Anderson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO CREATE A UNIFORM METHOD OF CALCULATING
11 A STUDENT'S GRADE POINT AVERAGE FOR CERTAIN
12 PURPOSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO CREATE A UNIFORM METHOD OF
15 CALCULATING A STUDENT'S GRADE POINT
16 AVERAGE FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.
17
18
19
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

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

25 6-15-903. Class rank and grade point average.

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

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

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

35 (3) Courses completed under a Smart Core curriculum as set forth
36 by the Department of Education, if the student elects to use his or her



1 grades received on Smart Core courses rather than under the minimum core
2 curriculum.

3 (b) A student may elect to include in the calculation of his or her
4 class rank and grade point average any grade received in an advanced
5 placement course, an honor course, or a Department of Education approved
6 concurrent enrollment college course.

7
8 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-61-217 is amended to read as follows:
9 6-61-217. Minimum core courses for college prep.

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

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

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

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

25
26 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-101 is amended to read as follows:
27 6-18-101. Qualifications for valedictorian and salutatorian.

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

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

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

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

10 (d) A student who is a member of any academic honor society on August
11 13, 1993, shall be exempt from the provisions of subsection (c) of this
12 section.

13
14 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005(b)(6)(A), concerning eligibility
15 for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read
16 as follows:

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

19 (i) A grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale ~~in~~
20 ~~the set of core curriculum courses~~ calculated as set forth under § 6-15-903,
21 if enrolling at an approved four-year institution; or

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

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

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

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35
- 36

/s/ Bisbee