

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

SENATE BILL 1054

4
5 By: Senator Salmon

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ALLOW A HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OFFERED
10 UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA
11 PROGRAM TO BE TREATED THE SAME AS AN ADVANCED
12 PLACEMENT COURSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO ALLOW A HIGH SCHOOL COURSE
16 OFFERED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL
17 BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM TO BE
18 TREATED THE SAME AS AN ADVANCED
19 PLACEMENT COURSE.

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

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-902 is amended to read as follows:
25 6-15-902. Grading scale - Exemptions - Special education classes.

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

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

35 (b) Each letter grade shall be given a numeric value for the purpose
36 of determining grade average. Except for advanced placement courses, courses



1 offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and honors
 2 courses, the numeric value for each letter grade shall be:

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

8 (c)(1) The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate
 9 equivalents for advanced placement and college courses and shall recommend a
 10 uniform grading structure for honors courses.

11 (2) The numeric grade for college courses taken by high school
 12 students which qualify for college credit and are approved for credit as a
 13 high school course shall be equal to the numeric grade value for advanced
 14 placement courses which are substantially the same as the college course.

15 (3)(A) The local school board may decide whether to adopt a
 16 policy to allow high school students in the district to take college courses
 17 for weighted credit equal to the numeric grade awarded in advanced placement
 18 courses, courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma
 19 Program, and honors classes.

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

26 (i) A letter from the superintendent of the district
 27 or principal of the school describing how the course exceeds expectations for
 28 coursework required under the Standards for Accreditation, Arkansas Public
 29 Schools; and

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

32 (d) A notation shall be made on a student's transcript to indicate
 33 each special education class included on the transcript.

34 (e) A school district shall have the option of using the grading scale
 35 in this section in the district's elementary schools.

36

1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2006 is amended to read as follows:
2 6-15-2006. Annual report.

3 (a)(1)(A) In addition to the requirements in § 6-15-2004(b), each
4 district school board shall annually report to the parent or guardian of each
5 student the progress of the student toward achieving state expectations for
6 proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics.

7 (B) The district school board shall report to the parent,
8 guardian, or the student if the student is eighteen (18) years of age or
9 older, the student's results on each statewide assessment test.

10 (2) The evaluation of each student's progress shall be based
11 upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, state assessments,
12 and other relevant information.

13 (3) Progress reporting shall be provided to the parent,
14 guardian, or the student if the student is eighteen (18) years of age or
15 older, in writing in a format adopted by the district school board which is
16 consistent with § 6-15-2101(b).

17 (b) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, each district school
18 board shall annually publish in the local newspaper the school performance
19 report required by § 6-15-1402 and report in writing to the State Board of
20 Education by October 15 of each year the following information on the prior
21 school year or the latest information available:

22 (1) By grade level, economic status, and ethnicity, the number
23 and percentage of all students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12)
24 performing at each category level on the benchmark examinations, and end-of-
25 course examinations, the percentile rankings by school and grade level on
26 norm-referenced exams, any other assessments as required by the state board,
27 the number of students taking advanced placement courses or courses offered
28 under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, the number taking the
29 advanced placement exams, and the percent of students making a 3.0, 4.0, or
30 5.0 on advanced placement exams;

31 (2) By grade level, the number and percentage of all students
32 retained in grades one through eight (1-8);

33 (3) The graduation rate, grade inflation rate, drop-out rate for
34 grades nine through twelve (9-12), and college remediation rate;

35 (4) The number of students transferring pursuant to the unsafe
36 school provision of § 6-15-439; and

1 (5) The number of students transferring pursuant to the Arkansas
2 Opportunity Public School Choice Act of 2004, § 6-18-227 et seq.

3 (c) This section shall apply to the extent that it is not in violation
4 of applicable state or federal law.

5
6 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 8 is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 6-16-801. Title.

9 This subchapter shall be known as and may be cited as the "Arkansas
10 Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program
11 Act of 1995".

12
13 6-16-802. Purpose.

14 (a) The purpose of this subchapter is to serve as a legislative
15 charter for the establishment, organization, and administration of a program
16 designed to improve the course offerings available to middle school, junior
17 high school, and high school students throughout the state.

18 (b) The program established under this subchapter will provide
19 advanced educational courses that are easily accessible and that will prepare
20 students for admission to and success in a postsecondary educational
21 environment.

22 (c) A key component in the program is adequately preparing teachers
23 and schools in providing advanced placement courses or courses offered under
24 the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program to their students.

25
26 6-16-803. Definitions.

27 As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

28 (1)(A) "Advanced placement course" means a high school level
29 preparatory course for a college advanced placement test that incorporates
30 all topics specified by the College Board and Educational Testing Service on
31 its standard syllabus for a given subject area and is approved by the College
32 Board and Educational Testing Service.

33 (B) "Preadvanced placement course" means a middle school,
34 junior high school, or high school level course that specifically prepares
35 students to enroll and participate in an advanced placement course;

36 (2) "Board" means the State Board of Education;

1 (3) "College advanced placement test" means the advanced
2 placement test administered by the College Board and Educational Testing
3 Service;

4 (4) "College Board" means the College Board and Educational
5 Testing Service;

6 (5) "Department" means the Department of Education;

7 (6) "Director" means the Director of the Department of
8 Education; ~~and~~

9 (7) "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program" means an
10 international education program offered by the International Baccalaureate
11 Organization; and

12 ~~(7)~~(8) "Program" means the Arkansas Advanced Placement and
13 International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program.

14
15 6-16-804. Established - Subsidies - Rules and regulations.

16 (a) The Arkansas Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate
17 Diploma Incentive Program is hereby established, to be administered by the
18 Director of the Department of Education.

19 (b)(1) Contingent upon legislative appropriations and based on
20 criteria established by the department, schools participating in the program
21 may be awarded a one-time equipment and instructional materials grant for
22 providing an advanced placement course or a course offered under the
23 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

24 (2) Contingent upon legislative appropriations, schools will be
25 awarded fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each score of three (3) or better earned
26 by a student on any advanced placement test or the equivalent test under the
27 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. These funds shall be utilized in
28 the schools' advanced placement programs.

29 (c) Subject to legislative appropriations, a teacher participating in
30 the advanced placement program, the International Baccalaureate Diploma
31 program Program, or in the preadvanced placement program may be awarded
32 subsidized teacher training for advanced placement courses at a cost not to
33 exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650) per teacher.

34 (d)(1) The state will pay a share of the advanced placement test fee
35 not to exceed sixty-five dollars (\$65.00).

36 (2) The State Board of Education shall create a sliding scale

1 based on family income.

2 (3) The state will pay fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each advanced
3 placement test or an equivalent test under the International Baccalaureate
4 Diploma Program taken as an economic supplement to each public school student
5 who takes more than two (2) advanced placement tests or more than two (2)
6 equivalent tests under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in one
7 (1) year.

8 (4) All students taking advanced placement courses or courses in
9 the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program must take advanced placement
10 tests or equivalent tests under the International Baccalaureate Diploma
11 Program or return the economic supplement.

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

14
15 6-16-805. Funding.

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

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

21 (c) The Director of the Department of Education may solicit and
22 receive donations and grants for the purpose of making awards.

23
24 SECTION 4. Any high school course offered under the International
25 Baccalaureate Diploma Program shall be treated the same as an advanced
26 placement course, including, but not limited to, the following:

27 (1) Weighted credit;

28 (2) The Arkansas Advanced Placement and the International
29 Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program Act of 1995; and

30 (3) Reporting requirements.
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