

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H3/26/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2712

5 By: Representative M. Martin
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF*
10 *ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND OTHER COLLEGE*
11 *LEVEL COURSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER*
12 *PURPOSES.*
13

Subtitle

14
15 *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR EQUITABLE*
16 *TREATMENT OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES*
17 *AND OTHER COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES IN*
18 *PUBLIC SCHOOLS.*
19
20

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

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

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

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

34 *(b) Each letter grade shall be given a numeric value for the purpose*
35 *of determining grade average. Except for advanced placement courses, courses*
36 *offered under the program, and honors courses, the numeric value for each*



1 letter grade shall be:

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

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

10 (2) Weighted credit shall be allowed for advanced placement
11 courses and courses offered under the program if:

12 (A) The student takes the entire advanced placement course
13 or the entire course offered in the program in a particular subject;

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

18 (C)(i) The teacher of the advanced placement course meets
19 Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and:

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

22 (b) Completes an additional training plan for
23 advanced placement within three (3) years of commencing the additional
24 training plan; or

25 (ii) The teacher of the course offered under the
26 program meets Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and attends the
27 training required by the organization.

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

32 (B) If a local school board adopts a policy as set forth
33 in subdivision (c)(3)(A) of this section, the district must apply to the
34 Department of Education through the Assistant Director for Accountability for
35 approval of courses to be designated "concurrent enrollment college courses".
36 The application shall be reviewed for approval to assign a numeric grade

1 value, which may include weighted credit, based on the following:

2 (i) A letter from the superintendent of the district
3 or principal of the school describing how the course exceeds expectations for
4 coursework required under the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public
5 Schools; and

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

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

11 (A) An endorsed concurrent enrollment course; and

12 (B) Certain advanced mathematics and science courses that
13 are determined by the Department of Higher Education to be eligible for
14 weighted credit pursuant to rules established by the Arkansas Higher
15 Education Coordinating Board.

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

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

19
20
21 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 8 is amended
22 to read as follows:

23 SUBCHAPTER 8 -- ARKANSAS ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

24
25 6-16-801. Title.

26 This subchapter shall be known as and may be cited as the "Arkansas
27 Advanced Placement ~~and International Baccalaureate Diploma~~ Incentive Program
28 Act of 1995".

29
30 6-16-802. Purpose.

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

35 (b) The program established under this subchapter will provide
36 advanced educational courses that are easily accessible and that will prepare

1 students for admission to and success in a postsecondary educational
2 environment.

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

6

7 6-16-803. Definitions.

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

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

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

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

18 (3) "College advanced placement test" means the advanced
19 placement test administered by the College Board and Educational Testing
20 Service;

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

23 (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education;

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

25 ~~(7) "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program" means an~~
26 ~~international education program offered by the International Baccalaureate~~
27 ~~Organization; and~~

28 ~~(8)-(7) "Program" means the Arkansas Advanced Placement and~~
29 ~~International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program.~~

30

31 6-16-804. Established - Subsidies - Rules and regulations.

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

35 (b) Contingent upon legislative appropriations and based on criteria
36 established by the Department of Education, schools participating in the

1 program may be awarded a one-time equipment and instructional materials grant
2 for providing an advanced placement course ~~or a course offered under the~~
3 ~~International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.~~

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

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

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

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

18
19 6-16-805. Funding.

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

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

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

27
28 ~~6-16-806. Treatment as advanced placement course.~~

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

32 ~~(1) Weighted credit;~~

33 ~~(2) The Arkansas Advanced Placement and the International~~
34 ~~Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program Act of 1995; and~~

35 ~~(3) Reporting requirements.~~

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/s/ M. Martin