

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 872 of the Regular Session

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**