

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

(c)(1) The State Board of Education shall: ~~adopt~~

(A) Adopt appropriate equivalents for advanced placement and college courses; and ~~shall recommend~~

(B) Recommend a uniform grading structure for honors courses.

(2) Weighted credit shall be allowed for advanced placement courses and courses offered under the ~~program~~ International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme if:

(A) The student takes the entire advanced placement course or the entire course offered in the ~~program~~ International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 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 at the time prescribed by the organization; and

(C)(i) ~~The~~ A teacher of an advanced placement course meets Arkansas teacher licensure requirements and:

(a) Attends at least one (1) of the following trainings no less than one (1) time every five (5) years:

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

(2) College Board-endorsed training; or

(3) Other similarly rigorous training approved by the department; or

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

~~(c) Attends College Board-endorsed training at intervals recommended by the College Board; or.~~

(ii) ~~The~~ A teacher of ~~the~~ a course offered under the ~~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.

(d) A public school district ~~shall have the option of using~~ may use the grading scale in this section in the public school district's elementary schools.

(e) The department may promulgate rules to implement this section.

APPROVED: 4/1/19