

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 478

5 By: Senators J. English, J. Sturch  
6 By: Representative Della Rosa  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
10 CONCERNING WEIGHTED CREDIT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

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13 TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
14 CONCERNING WEIGHTED CREDIT.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-902 is amended to read as follows:

21 6-15-902. Grading scale – Exemptions – Special education classes.

22 (a) The following grading scale shall be used by all public secondary  
23 schools in the state for all courses, except advanced placement courses,  
24 approved courses for weighted credit, and courses offered under the  
25 International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme:

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

31 (b)(1) Each letter grade shall be given a numeric value for the  
32 purpose of determining grade average.

33 (2) Except for advanced placement courses, approved courses for  
34 weighted credit, courses offered under the ~~program~~ International  
35 Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, and honors courses, the numeric value for  
36 each letter grade shall be:



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

6                   (c)(1) The State Board of Education shall: ~~adopt~~  
 7                                   (A) Adopt appropriate equivalents for advanced placement  
 8 and college courses; and ~~shall recommend~~  
 9                                   (B) Recommend a uniform grading structure for honors  
 10 courses.

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

14                                   (A) The student takes the entire advanced placement course  
 15 or the entire course offered in the ~~program~~ International Baccalaureate  
 16 Diploma Programme in a particular subject;

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

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

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

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

27   (2) College Board-endorsed training; or

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

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

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

35   (ii) ~~The~~ A teacher of ~~the~~ a course offered under the  
 36 ~~program~~ International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme meets Arkansas teacher

1 licensure requirements and attends the training required by the ~~organization~~  
 2 International Baccalaureate.

3 (3) The department may approve a course for weighted credit if  
 4 the course:

5 (A) Exceeds the curriculum standards for a nonweighted  
 6 credit class; or

7 (B) Meets or exceeds the standards of a comparable  
 8 advanced placement class.

9 (4) The department in collaboration with the Department of  
 10 Career Education may approve a career and technical course for weighted  
 11 credit if the course:

12 (A) Exceeds the curriculum standards for a nonweighted  
 13 class; and

14 (B) Leads to an approved industry recognized  
 15 certification.

16 ~~(3)(A)(5)(A)~~ The A local school district board of directors may  
 17 ~~decide whether to~~ adopt a policy to allow high school students in the public  
 18 school district to take college courses for weighted credit equal to the  
 19 numeric grade awarded in advanced placement courses, courses offered under  
 20 the program, and honors classes.

21 (B)(i) If a local school district board of directors  
 22 adopts a policy ~~as set forth in~~ under subdivision ~~(e)(3)(A)~~ (c)(5)(A) of this  
 23 section, the school district ~~must~~ shall apply to the ~~Department of Education~~  
 24 ~~through the Assistant Commissioner for Accountability for approval of courses~~  
 25 ~~to be designated "concurrent enrollment college courses"~~ department for  
 26 approval.

27 (ii) ~~The An~~ application under subdivision  
 28 (c)(5)(B)(i) of this section shall be reviewed for approval to assign a  
 29 numeric grade value, which may include weighted credit, based on the  
 30 following:

31 (a) A letter from the superintendent of the  
 32 public school district or principal of the public school describing how the  
 33 course exceeds expectations for coursework required under the Standards for  
 34 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts; and

35 (b) The grade level or levels of public school  
 36 students who will be enrolled in the course.

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

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

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7 **APPROVED: 4/1/19**  
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