

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Title 6. Education

Chapter I. Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education

Subchapter D. Student Instruction and Learning

Part 96. Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit

Subpart 1. Definitions

6 CAR § 96-101. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) ~~(A) "Additional training plan (ATP)" requires Advanced Placement (AP) and Pre-AP teachers to attend appropriate College Board training.~~

~~_____ (B) Teachers in the plan have up to three (3) years to complete this requirement;~~ "Accelerated learning" means an organized method of learning that enables students in grades kindergarten through grade twelve (12) to meet individual academic goals and graduation requirements while pursuing higher levels of skill development, including without limitation the following coursework:

(A) A College Board pre-Advanced Placement course;

(B) A College Board Advanced Placement course;

(C) An International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course;

(D) A Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education course;

(E) A concurrent credit course; and

(F) A substantively similar course or program approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;

(2)(A) “Accelerated Learning Guide” means the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education guide designated to help districts implement accelerated learning with consistency, transparency, and strong student support.

(B) The Accelerated Learning Guide can be accessed via the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education’s website;

~~(2)(A)(3) “Advanced Placement (AP) course” courses are those courses taught following guidelines as provided for Advanced Placement courses by the College Board.~~
means a college-level course authorized by the College Board to be offered by public schools or course providers that allow students an opportunity to take a standardized examination that may result in postsecondary-level credit;

~~—————(B) Advanced Placement courses provide the opportunity for students to take a national examination through which they may qualify for college/university level credit;~~

~~—————(3) “Advanced Placement” course means a high school preparatory course for a College Board Advanced Placement Exam that:~~

~~—————(A) Incorporates all topics specified by the College Board and the Educational Testing Service on the syllabus for a given subject area; and~~

~~—————(B) Is approved through the College Board and Educational Testing Service;~~

~~(4)(4) “Approved institution of higher education” means an institution of higher education that~~
is approved by the Division of Higher Education to offer a concurrent credit program;~~meets the requirements of the definition under Arkansas Code § 6-85-402;~~

(5) “Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) course” means a course authorized as a Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level one-year course and Cambridge International Advanced (A) Level two-year course that allows students at both the AS and A levels an opportunity to take a standardized end of course examination written and graded by Cambridge International that may

result in postsecondary-level credit and eligibility for an AICE Diploma award from Cambridge International;

~~(5)(6)~~ “College Board” means the College Board and Educational Testing Service, a mission-driven which is a not-for-profitnonprofit organization;

~~(6)(A)(7)(A)~~ “College Board Advanced Placement Exam” means a standardized exam designed to measure how well a student has mastered the content and skills of a specific AP course.

(B) ~~A~~ College Board Advanced Placement Exam is administered by the Educational Testing Service on behalf of the College Board;

~~(7)(A)(8)(A)~~ “College coursescourse” ~~are courses~~ means a course that ~~are~~ is offered and taught under the direction of an accredited institution of higher education.

(B) Students may qualify for concurrent credit or dual credit for such courses:

~~—————(C) For a concurrent college course to receive a weighted grade, it must be approved through the process described in this part;~~

(9) “Computational thinking” means the cognitive process and problem-solving methodology used to formulate and design solutions in a way that can be executed by a computing system;

~~(8)(10)~~ “Computer science credit” means one (1) unit of credit earned through the completion of a course or courses approved by the State Board of Education and Division of Elementary and Secondary Education that meets the requirements of Subpart 7 of this part;

(11)(A) “Computer science-related career and technical education course” means a dynamic course of study that equips students with foundational knowledge and in-demand technical skills in computing.

(B) The course should foster computational thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration, preparing students to:

(i) Integrate these concepts into any profession;

(ii) Pursue continued postsecondary education; or

(iii) Enter the technology workforce;

~~(9)~~(12) “Computer science teacher” means an individual who holds an Arkansas teaching license or technical permit that includes a computer science certification, endorsement, approval, or technical permit code that meets the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education’s requirement for a computer science teacher;

(13) “Computing” means the study of algorithmic processes and the machinery that executes them;

(14)(A) “Concurrent credit course” means a college-level course offered by an institution of higher education in this state that upon completion would qualify for academic credit in both the institution of higher education and a public high school.

(B) Each school district must have on file a current written, signed memorandum of understanding with the institution of higher education it seeks to offer concurrent enrollment;

(15) “Course Code Management System” means the platform used by public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to verify course codes and licensure codes that have been developed by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;

(16) “Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM)” means the process by which a student may earn credit for a high school course by demonstrating an understanding of the content without course enrollment or without meeting the minimum of one hundred twenty (120) clock hours as required by the Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts, 6 CAR pt. 61;

~~—————(10) “Division” means the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;~~

(17) “Dual enrollment course” means an enrollment program allowing high school students to take college courses for credit at an institution of higher education;

~~—————(11) “Elementary school” is a school having any combination of one (1) or more grades from kindergarten through grade six (K-6);~~

~~—————(12)(A) “Endorsed concurrent enrollment course” means a college-level course offered by an institution of higher education in this state, that upon completion would qualify for academic credit in both the institution of higher education and a public high school that;~~

~~_____ (i) Is one (1) of the four (4) core areas of:~~
~~_____ (a) Math;~~
~~_____ (b) English;~~
~~_____ (c) Science; and~~
~~_____ (d) Social studies;~~
~~_____ (ii) Meets the requirements of 6 CAR § 96-504 of this part; and~~
~~_____ (iii) Is listed in the Arkansas Course Transfer System of the Division of Higher Education.~~
~~_____ (B) This definition does not affect the ability of school districts to award concurrent credit for those courses that comply with the requirements of Arkansas Code § 6-18-223;~~

~~(13)~~(18) "High school" means any Arkansas public school, including an open-enrollment public charter school, that provides instruction to students in grades:

- (A) Nine (9);
- (B) Ten (10);
- (C) Eleven (11); or
- (D) Twelve (12);

~~(14)~~(19) "~~Home-schooled~~Home school student" means a student ~~legally enrolled in an Arkansas home school attending school provided by his or her parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-15-503;~~

(20)(A) "Honors course" means a course offered to accelerate student learning and build a strong academic foundation for more advanced course work.

(B) "Honors courses" are courses designated by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide the following:

(i) An accelerated pace of learning with rigorous academic content;
or

(ii) Content spanning multiple grade levels to ensure continuous growth and preparation for accelerated pathways.

(C) "Honors courses" approved for weighted credit include courses that meet graduation credit requirements, in addition to one of the following criteria:

(i) Material that is covered goes beyond what Arkansas students usually need to graduate and are designated as an honors course in the Course Code Management System; or

(ii) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, required credit bearing graduation courses that are taken prior to grade nine (9):

~~—————(15) “International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB)” means an international education program offered by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO);~~

(21) “Institution of higher education” means:

(A) A state-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher education;

(B) A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year institution of higher education that has its primary headquarters located in Arkansas and is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; or

(C) Institutions of higher education approved by the Division of Higher Education as a concurrent credit course provider that are not physically located in Arkansas but offering concurrent credit courses in this state;

~~(16)(A)(22)(A)~~ “International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme courses” are ~~those taught following guidelines provided for International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme courses~~ authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

(B) “International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme courses” provide the opportunity for students to take a national standardized examination that may result in postsecondary-level credit;

~~—————(17) “National school lunch student” means those students from low socioeconomic backgrounds as indicated by eligibility for free or reduced-price meals under:~~

~~—————(A) The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq.; and~~

~~—————(B) Arkansas Code § 6-20-2303;~~

~~(18)~~(23) “~~Pre-Advanced Placement~~ Pre-Advanced Placement course” means a College Board ~~developed and trademarked~~ authorized Pre-AP course designed to deliver grade-level-appropriate instruction to prepare students for success in more advanced coursework;

~~—————~~(19) “Private institution” is defined as an institution of higher education accredited by the:

~~—————~~(A) Western Association of Schools and Colleges;

~~—————~~(B) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

~~—————~~(C) Middle States Commission on Higher Education;

~~—————~~(D) New England Association of Schools and Colleges;

~~—————~~(E) Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities; or

~~—————~~(F) North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;

~~—————~~(20)(A) “Secondary school” is any school containing one (1) or more grades from seven through twelve (7-12) or any middle school having any combination of grades five through 8 (5-8) with the exception of a school having only grade five (5), grade six (6), or the combination of grades five through six (5-6).

~~—————~~(B) A student in grades nine through twelve (9-12) is considered enrolled in a public secondary school so long as he or she is counted for the average daily membership of the school pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-20-2303(3)(C);

~~(21)~~(24) “Standards-based grading” is a system of reporting that focuses on:

~~—————~~(A) Student learning; and

~~—————~~(B) The demonstration of competency or mastery of a set of standards; and

~~(22)(A)~~(25)(A) “Weighted credit” means additional quality points for designated ~~AP and IB~~ courses that will be contingent upon meeting the requirements set forth in Subpart 64 of this part.

(B) Courses identified by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to receive weighted credit shall be listed in the Course Code Management System.

~~—————(B) “Weighted credit” also means additional quality points for courses approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education that meet or exceed the standards of a comparable AP course or for approved career and technical education (CTE) courses, as set forth in Subpart 4 of this part; and~~

~~—————(23) “Weighted Credit and AP Training Approval Committee” means a review committee composed of Division of Elementary and Secondary Education program directors and advisors with AP and content expertise, including but not limited to personnel in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education’s curriculum and gifted and talented offices.~~

Subpart 2. ~~Uniform grading scales~~Uniform Grading Scales

6 CAR § 96-201. Purpose.

(a) The purpose of this ~~part~~subpart is to establish the uniform grading ~~scales~~scale to be used by all public ~~secondary~~ schools and open-enrollment public charter schools in the state ~~for regular courses~~.

(b) This ~~part~~subpart establishes the numeric value given to each letter grade for the purpose of determining grade average in all public ~~secondary~~ schools and open-enrollment public charter schools in the state for ~~regular all~~ courses, except for those courses designated as eligible accelerated learning courses and courses approved for weighted credit.

~~—————(c) This part provides an optional grading scale for public elementary schools.~~

6 CAR § 96-202. Grading scale and numerical values.

~~(a)(1)(a)~~ The ~~following uniform grading scale is to~~shall be the used for the purposes of awarding graduation credit by all public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools in the state for all courses, except for those courses designated as eligible accelerated learning courses and courses approved for weighted credit.

~~—————(A) Uniform Grading Scale and numeric values for secondary schools; and~~

~~—————(B) Optional Uniform Grading Scale for elementary schools.~~

~~—————(2) Grades earned in courses will be assigned the following numeric values when such courses are used to compute student grade point average.~~

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

(2) This uniform grading scale may be used by all public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools provided the coursework meets the grade level standards.

(3) Except for those courses designated as eligible for weighted credit, the numeric value for each letter grade shall be:

A 90 – 100 = 4 points

B 80 – 89 = 3 points

C 70 – 79 = 2 points

D 60 – 69 = 1 point

F 0 – 59 = 0 points

~~(b)(1)(c)(1)~~ (c)(1) Student grades ~~should~~shall reflect the knowledge and skills of the Arkansas academic standards demonstrated by the student through ~~class assignments, tests, presentations, and projects that reflect the Arkansas academic standards.~~any of the following methods:

(A) Class assignments;

(B) Tests;

(C) Presentations; and

(D) Projects.

(2) The purpose of grading is to communicate how well a student has achieved the learning objectives or criteria for a class.

(c) A public school district may use:

(1) The grading scale in this section in the public school district's or open-enrollment public charter school's elementary schools; or

(2) Standards-based grading.

(d) Methods for recording and reporting competency without the associated coursework may be used as long as the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school has ~~an~~ a Division of Elementary and Secondary Education approved ~~CDM~~ Credit by Demonstrated Mastery plan, 6 CAR § 96-301.

6 CAR § 96-203. Report cards.

(a)(1) Every public school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall provide a report card for each student reflecting the student's grade or performance in each class in which the student is enrolled.

(2) The report card shall be:

(A) Mailed to the last known address of the student;

(B) Given to a parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis at a parent-teacher conference; or

(C) Sent home with the student;

(3) Report cards may be emailed to the parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis in addition to the requirements described in (a)(2) of this section.

(b) The report card shall be provided at the end of each grading period or no fewer than four (4) times each school year.

(c) Parents, guardians, and persons standing in loco parentis shall not be required to provide postage or self-addressed envelopes to receive a report card.

Subpart 3. ~~Flexibility in awarding high school course credit~~ Competency-Based Credit

6 CAR § 96-301. Awarding Credit by Demonstrated Mastery.

~~—(a) Credit by Demonstrated Mastery is the process by which a student may earn credit for a high school course by demonstrating a deep understanding of the content without:~~

~~—(1) Course enrollment; or~~

~~—————(2) The minimum of one hundred twenty (120) clock hours required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts, 6 CAR pt. 61.~~

~~(b)(1)(a)(1)~~ A public school district or open-enrollment public charter school may submit a Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) applicationplan for approval to the Division of Elementary and Secondary 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) Weighted credit is not available for CDM.

~~(3) The plan shall include a method for recording credit received through CDM on a student's transcript.~~

~~(e)(b)~~ Students shall demonstrate mastery through a multiphase assessmentprocess, consisting of:

(1) Phase 1: A standard examination assessing course standards; and

(2)(A) Phase 2: At least one (1) artifact that requires the student to apply knowledge and skills relevant to the content standards.

(B) Students who are unable to meet the established minimum score in Phase 1 shall not progress to Phase 2.

~~(d)(c)~~ The CDM process is designed to allow students to:

(1) Demonstrate competency of a required graduation credit; and

(2)~~(A)~~ Provide the opportunity for the student to take additional courses.

~~—————(B) The CDM process:~~

~~—————(i) Is not designed for whole groups of students; and~~

~~—————(ii) Shall not replace the general accelerated pathways provided for advanced students.~~

~~(e)(d)~~ Each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school~~district~~ shall form a committee to review submissions of work to determine if the student has demonstrated sufficient competency to meet the standards for credit in the course.

~~(f)(e)~~ Upon approval, a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school~~district~~ shall not be in violation of any requirement in the Rules Governing the

Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts, 6 CAR pt. 61, that units of credit be awarded for a minimum number of clock hours if the public school ~~district or open-enrollment public charter 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~~~~division's~~ approved plan.

~~(g)~~(f) The ~~Department of Education and its divisions~~~~division~~ shall monitor schools offering CDM to ensure compliance with this part.

Subpart 4. ~~Courses for weighted credit~~Weighted Credit

6 CAR § 96-401. General provisions.

(a) ~~The~~Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, the following weighted scale is to be used for:

- (1) ~~Advanced Placement~~Eligible accelerated learning courses; and
- (2) ~~Courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme; and~~ Other eligible courses approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for weighted credit.
- ~~—(3) Division of Elementary and Secondary Education approved weighted courses.~~

A 90 – 100 = 5 points

B 80 – 89 = 4 points

C 70 – 79 = 3 points

D 60 – 69 = 2 points

F 0 – 59~~and below~~ = 0 points

(b) The division shall consider the following criteria in implementing the weighted scale:

(1) Standards;

DRAFT

(2) A numeric value for the purpose of determining grade point averages; and

(3) Weight given to the numeric value as provided in 6 CAR § 96-202(b)(3).

(c) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year for the anticipated 2031 graduating class (2027-2028 freshman class) and all subsequent graduating classes, the following weighted 6.0 credit scale shall be implemented in accordance with the division's guidance found in the Accelerated Learning Guide:

A 90 – 100 = 6 points

B 80 – 89 = 5 points

C 70 – 79 = 4 points

D 60 – 69 = 2 points

F 0 – 59 = 0 points

~~(b)(d) Courses~~Additional courses approved by the ~~Division of Elementary and Secondary Education division~~ for weighted credit ~~must~~shall:

(1) Meet or exceed the standards of a comparable ~~Advanced Placement class~~eligible accelerated learning course; ~~or~~

(2) Exceed the ~~curriculum~~academic standards for a nonweighted credit course;
or

(3) Be identified by the division as an honors course.

~~—(c) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education in collaboration with the Division of Career and Technical Education may approve a career and technical course for weighted credit if the course:~~

~~——(1) Exceeds the curriculum standards for nonweighted course in a pathway;
and~~

~~——(2) Leads to an approved industry-recognized certification.~~

(e)(1) Public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools may refer to the division's Accelerated Learning Guide for additional guidance pertaining to weighted credit.

(2) The division's Accelerated Learning Guide shall be posted on the division's website.

6 CAR § 96-402. ~~School district weighted credit policies for college courses~~ Career and technical education weighted credit.

(a) ~~A local school district board of directors may adopt a policy to allow high school students in the public school district to take~~The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education in collaboration with the Division of Career and Technical Education may approve a career and technical course within an approved career and technical pathway for weighted credit if the course:

~~(1) College courses for weighted credit equal to the numeric grade awarded in Advanced Placement courses~~ Exceeds the academic standards for a nonweighted course in a pathway; and

~~(2) Courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme; and~~ Leads to an approved industry-recognized certification or concurrent credit.

~~—————(3) Approved weighted classes.~~

(b) ~~If a local school board adopts such a policy, the district shall apply to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's Weighted Credit and AP Training Approval Committee for approval of concurrent enrollment college courses to be designated as a weighted course, under Subpart 5 of this part.~~ The Division of Career and Technical Education shall:

(1) Review new and existing career and technical pathways to determine which courses within the career and technical pathways meet criteria for weighted credit; and

(2) Publish a list of approved career and technical pathways annually by January 1.

(c) ~~An application shall be reviewed for approval to assign a numeric grade value, that may include weighted credit, based on the following~~ Criteria used to determine

what courses within a career and technical pathway shall receive weighted credit shall include without limitation the consideration of career and technical pathways that:

~~(1) 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, 6 CAR pt. 61~~ Lead to high-value industry credentials; and

~~(2) The grade level or levels of public school students who will be enrolled in the course;~~ Align to state and local workforce data.

~~—————(3) Clear evidence that the concurrent credit course is substantially the same as an Advanced Placement course;~~

~~—————(4) Statement of learner outcomes, objectives and/or learning expectations based on revised curriculum frameworks where appropriate; and~~

~~—————(5) Description of instructional strategies demonstrating:~~

~~—————(A) Problem solving;~~

~~—————(B) Critical thinking; and~~

~~—————(C)(i) Higher order learning processes.~~

~~—————(ii) This description should include at least one (1) exemplary lesson.~~

(d) Weighted credit awarded under this subpart shall be awarded for each course upon:

(1) Completing the relevant career and technical pathway; and

(2) Earning the high-value industry credential aligned with the career and technical pathway.

(e) Weighted credit under this subpart may also be awarded for courses that meet the definition of accelerated learning under § 96-101(1)(F) of this part.

Subpart 5. ~~Concurrent credit~~ Concurrent Credit

6 CAR § 96-501. Enrollment guidelines ~~for students enrolled in grades 9-12.~~

(a)(1) Any eligible student who is enrolled in ~~grades nine (9) through twelve (12)~~ in an Arkansas public school district or open-enrollment public charter school ~~shall be eligible to may~~ enroll in ~~a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private~~ an approved institution of higher education in accordance with the ~~rules adopted by the college or university~~ enrollment policies of the institution and the Division of Higher Education. —

(2)(A) ~~If an Arkansas public college or university or private institution of higher education requires a college course placement score greater than a score of nineteen (19) on the ACT, a comparable score on the SAT, or an equivalent measure, the public school~~ A student must shall meet that institution's concurrent admissions and course placement requirements.

(B) ~~Districts should consider the ACT benchmark readiness scores in addition to the minimum requirement for proper identification and~~ Institutions may use a variety of factors and measures beyond a standardized test score when determining proper placement of students in college coursework.

(C) Procedures and standards for placement are outlined in the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Student Placement into General Education Credit Course Policy, 6 CAR pt. 365 and the Concurrent Enrollment Policy located on the Division of Higher Education's website.

(3) A student ~~in grade twelve (12) who possesses at least an ACT subscore of seventeen (17), or a comparable score on the SAT, in English, reading, or mathematics (or an equivalent measure)~~ may enroll in ~~remedial/developmental~~ co-requisite remedial or developmental education courses in English, reading, and mathematics at ~~a~~ an ~~approved institution of higher education.~~

—————(A) ~~Publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university; or~~

—————(B) ~~Private institution of higher education.~~

(4)(A) ~~Any institution of higher education offering a remedial/developmental education course or courses must inform the public school student, verbally and in writing, that successful~~ Successful completion of ~~remedial/developmental~~ co-requisite

remedial or developmental education courses in English, reading, and mathematics at one (1) college or university approved institution of higher education does not guarantee college course placement at another ~~Arkansas college or university, unless there is a written/signed college course placement agreement with the other Arkansas college or university institution of higher education.~~

~~—————(B) A list of the institutions of higher education with a signed college course placement agreement must be:~~

~~—————(i) Included in the signed memorandum of agreement between the school district and college/university;~~

~~—————(ii) Published in the current college/university catalog; and~~

~~—————(iii) Posted on the college/university website;~~

(5) Students enrolled in co-requisite remedial or developmental education courses in English, reading, or mathematics for concurrent credit shall be notified in writing by the high school that these courses do not earn college credit and do not count towards high school graduation requirements.

(b)(1) Any public school district or open-enrollment public charter school student ~~in grades nine (9) through twelve (12)~~ who enrolls in and successfully completes a concurrent credit course or courses offered by ~~a publicly supported community college, technical college, four year college or university, or private~~ an approved institution of higher education shall be entitled to receive both high school and college grades, and credit ~~(credit earned by College Level Examination Program examination may not be counted as high school credit)~~ that count toward graduation, as outlined in this part.

(2) Participation in ~~the~~ a concurrent ~~high school and college credit program~~ must course shall, in accordance with the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Concurrent Enrollment Policy, be documented by a ~~written agreement memorandum of understanding between~~ the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school and the approved institution of higher education.

~~_____ (A) The public school student and his or her parent or parents or guardian or guardians if the public school student is under the age of eighteen (18);~~

~~_____ (B) The public school or public school district where the student is enrolled; and~~

~~_____ (C) The publicly supported:~~

~~_____ (i) Community college;~~

~~_____ (ii) Technical college;~~

~~_____ (iii) Four-year college or university; or~~

~~_____ (iv) Private institution of higher education.~~

(c)(1) Students ~~must~~shall comply with applicable enrollment or graduation requirements of the ~~public high~~ school the student attends while the student participates in the concurrent credit ~~program~~course.

(2) ~~Public school students~~Students who previously earned high school credit through the concurrent credit program shall maintain ~~the any~~ earned credit and weight for the completed course through graduation, regardless of whether the student subsequently transfers to a ~~public school or school district~~ that ~~opts~~does not ~~to~~ participate in the concurrent credit program.

(d)~~(1)(1)~~ Three (3) semester hours of college credit taken by a student ~~in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) for concurrent credit at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private~~ an approved institution of higher education shall be the equivalent of one (1) unit of high school credit in the same subject area.

~~_____ (2) A three-semester hour remedial/developmental education course shall be the equivalent of one-half (1/2) unit of credit for a high school career focus elective.~~

~~_____ (3) A remedial/developmental education course cannot be used to meet the core subject area/unit requirements.~~

(2) However, some coursework consisting of less than three (3) semester hours of college credit taken by a student for concurrent credit at an approved institution of higher education may be the equivalent of (1) unit of high school credit in the same subject area if it meets either of the following:

(A) The requirements described under § 96-402(d)(1) and (2) of this part;
or

(B) The definition of accelerated learning under § 96-101(1)(F) of this part.

~~(e) College credit earned at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private~~ Successful completion of a concurrent credit course earned at an approved institution of higher education by an eligible student shall be counted by the high school toward graduation, ~~including credit earned through summer terms.~~

~~—(f) Public school students in grade twelve (12) who are enrolled in remedial/developmental education courses will not be counted for public higher education funding purposes.~~

(f)(1) The public school district or open-enrollment public charter school in which the student is enrolled shall be responsible for implementation of a student's accommodations or modifications related to an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan, including accommodations and modifications, to the extent applicable, as determined by the IEP or 504 team.

(2)(A) The public school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall coordinate with learning partners and the Office of Disability Services at institutions of higher education to ensure that students with an IEP or 504 plan receive the accommodations or modifications as appropriate while enrolled in the concurrent credit course.

(B) Students may reach out to their respective school district counselors and special education supervisors for additional support if needed.

(C)(i) A student's ability to enroll in or complete a concurrent credit course for college credit may be impacted if the course content is altered or modified above what is considered a reasonable accommodation at the institution of higher education.

(ii) Students may only be eligible to receive high school credit, not college credit, upon completion of the concurrent credit course if course content is

altered or modified beyond what the institution of higher education considers a reasonable accommodation.

(iii) Approved institutions of higher education determine a student's eligibility for reasonable accommodation based on the documentation submitted to the Office of Disability Services.

(g) Nothing in this part shall be construed to require ~~Arkansas public schools, publicly supported community colleges, technical colleges, four-year colleges or universities, or private~~ any public school district or open-enrollment public charter school or any approved institutions of higher education to participate in offering a concurrent credit ~~program~~course.

(h) Any public school district, ~~open-enrollment public charter school, and publicly supported or private or approved~~ institution of higher education that chooses to participate in offering a concurrent credit ~~program~~course shall implement and carry out the concurrent credit ~~program course in accordance with the~~ as required by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Division of Higher Education.

~~————(1) Rules of the State Board of Education; and~~

~~————(2) Policies of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.~~

6 CAR § 96-502. Eligibility.

~~(a)~~ To be eligible to enroll in ~~an endorsed~~ a concurrent ~~enrollment~~credit course, the student ~~must~~shall:

(1) Be admitted by the approved institution of higher education ~~as a nondegree-seeking or noncertificate-seeking student~~; and

(2) Meet ~~all of~~all of the prerequisites for the course in which ~~he or she is enrolled~~ the student seeks to enroll.

~~————(b) All accelerated or advanced course work shall be reflected in a student success plan, including but not limited to:~~

~~————(1) AP and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses;~~

~~————(2) CTE courses; and~~

~~————(3) Endorsed concurrent credit courses.~~

6 CAR § 96-503. Tuition.

~~—(a) A state-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher education may offer a reduced tuition rate for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses offered by the institution of higher education to high school students.~~

~~—(b) A student who qualifies under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq., (NSLA) shall not be required to pay any of the costs up to a maximum of six (6) credit hours of endorsed concurrent enrollment courses that are taught:~~

~~———(1) On the grounds of the public school district in which the student is enrolled; and~~

~~———(2) By a teacher employed by the public school district in which the student is enrolled who meets the requirements of 6 CAR § 96-504(c).~~

~~—(c) The costs for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses for a student who qualifies under NSLA shall be paid:~~

~~———(1) By the public school district in which the student is enrolled;~~

~~———(2) By the institution of higher education offering the course; or~~

~~———(3) Through a cost-sharing agreement between the:~~

~~———(A) Public school district; and~~

~~———(B) Institution of higher education.~~

~~—(d)(1) The student shall be responsible for all costs of higher education courses taken for concurrent college credit, unless the costs for these courses are paid by:~~

~~———(A) The public school district;~~

~~———(B) A college/university scholarship;~~

~~———(C) A grant; or~~

~~———(D) A private foundation.~~

~~———(2) If the costs for a higher education course or courses are paid by the public school district, a college/university scholarship, a grant, or a private foundation, a signed agreement must exist between:~~

~~———(A) The public school district;~~

~~_____ (B) The external entity or foundation; and~~

~~_____ (C) The publicly supported or private institution of higher education.~~

(a)(1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each year thereafter, the tuition rate for a concurrent credit course offered by a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school in partnership with an approved institution of higher education shall:

(A) For every one (1) academic credit hour provided by an institution of higher education, be an agreed amount that is not:

(i) More than two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the per-pupil amount established under Arkansas § 6-20-2305 that is allotted per student each year; and

(ii) Less than one-half percent (0.5%) of the per-pupil amount established under Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305 that is allotted per student each year; and

(B) Not exceed the standard tuition rate and fee structure of the institution of higher education providing the concurrent credit course.

(2)(A) The amount established under this section may be satisfied through the following sources:

(i) ACCESS to Acceleration (A2A) Scholarship Program funds;

(ii) Funding from the school district where a student is enrolled;

(iii) Other consideration agreed to by the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school and institution of higher education; and

(iv) Any other available sources as determined by the Division of Higher Education.

(B) An institution of higher education shall not receive funding for concurrent credit courses for tuition at secondary vocational centers under Arkansas Code § 6-51-301 et seq. if the institution of higher education is already receiving funding designated for vocational center aid.

(C) If tuition for a concurrent credit course is satisfied through foundation funding established under Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305, an institution shall not receive

additional funds from ACCESS to Acceleration (A2A) Scholarship funds for that same course.

(3) A student or a student's parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis shall not be responsible for tuition, fees, or materials for participation in a concurrent credit course regardless of completion or the student's performance.

(b) An approved institution of higher education may offer a reduced tuition rate for concurrent credit courses offered by the institution of higher education to high school students.

~~—(e)(1)-(c)(1)~~ A student who attends a private school or a home school and enrolls in a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school to take an endorsed a concurrent-enrollment credit course shall not be charged ~~unless the public school district also charges public school students for the endorsed concurrent enrollment~~ course tuition, fees, or materials by the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school.

(2) Funding for a student who attends a private school or home school to take a concurrent credit course shall be provided through:

(A) The student's Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account;

(B) ACCESS to Acceleration (A2A) Scholarship; or

(C) Foundation funding received by the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school in which the student enrolls to take the concurrent credit course.

~~(2)(3)~~ A public school district may provide transportation to a private school or ~~home-schooled~~home school student to or from the location of the academic course pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-18-232.

6 CAR § 96-504. ~~Endorsed concurrent enrollment~~ Concurrent credit course requirements.

(a) The concurrent credit course must be a course offered by an approved institution of higher education ~~in this state~~ that is:

(1) Approved through the institution of higher education's normal process; and

(2) Listed in the institution of higher education's catalog.

(b) The concurrent credit course content and instruction must meet or exceed the same standards and adopt the same learning outcomes as those developed for a course taught on the campus of the institution of higher education, including without limitation:

(1) The administration of any departmental exams applicable to the course;
and

(2) The use of substantially the same book and syllabus as is used at the college level.

~~(e)(c)(1)~~ An instructor of ~~an endorsed a~~ concurrent ~~enrollment~~credit course shall ~~have~~meet the requirements of the following:

(A) Approved institution of higher education that is offering the course;

(B) Appropriate accrediting organizations; and

(C) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

~~————(1) No less than a master's degree that includes at least eighteen (18) hours of completed course work in the subject area of the endorsed concurrent enrollment course;~~

(2) The instructor's credentials shall be approved by the academic unit or chief academic officer of the approved institution of higher education offering the ~~endorsed~~ concurrent ~~enrollment~~credit course; ~~and~~

(3) The relevant credentials and experience necessary to teach from the syllabus approved by the institution of higher education granting the concurrent credit course credit.

(d) The institution of higher education offering the concurrent credit course must provide:

(1) To the course instructor:

(A) Staff development;

(B) Supervision; and

(C) Evaluation; and

(2) The students enrolled in the course with:

(A) Academic guidance counseling; and

(B) The opportunity to utilize the on-campus library or other academic resources of the institution of higher education.

~~(e)(1) Credit~~College credit for the ~~endorsed~~-concurrent ~~enrollment~~credit course:
———~~(1) May~~ may only be awarded by the approved institution of higher education offering the course; ~~and~~.

~~(2) When subject to an agreement with the college offering the course, must be accepted by the high school that the student attends~~ Institutions of higher education shall not be precluded from collaborating to provide the course and award course credit.

———~~(f) Institutions of higher education may collaborate to:~~

———~~(1) Provide the course; and~~

———~~(2) Award course credit.~~

6 CAR § 96-505. Dual enrollment courses.

(a)(1) Pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-18-223, a public school or open-enrollment public charter school shall issue appropriate academic credit applicable to a student's graduation requirement if the student successfully completes a course offered by an institution of higher education.

(2) Any public school district or open-enrollment public charter school student who enrolls in and successfully completes a dual enrollment course, including courses offered in the summer, may be entitled to receive weighted credit if it is otherwise eligible pursuant to this part.

(b)(1) Tuition and fees for dual enrollment courses shall be the responsibility of the parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis unless the student's public school district or open-enrollment public charter school elects to cover those costs.

(2) A dual enrollment course will not be converted to a concurrent credit course upon a student's successful petition to receive high school credit, such that the high school would then be responsible for the cost of the dual enrollment course.

(c)(1) A student with an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan may register and request academic accommodation through the Office of Disability Services at the institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled in a dual enrollment course.

(2) A student's IEP and 504 plan accommodations do not automatically transfer to institutions of higher education for dual enrollment courses.

Subpart 6. ~~Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Programme~~ Accelerated Learning

6 CAR § 96-601. ~~Purpose~~ District requirements.

~~—The purpose of this part is to:~~

~~——(1)(A) Establish, organize, and administer a program designed to improve the course offerings available to middle school, junior high school, and high school students throughout the state;~~

~~——(B) The program established under Arkansas Code § 6-16-801 et seq. will:~~

~~——(i) Provide advanced educational courses that are easily accessible;~~
~~and~~

~~——(ii) Prepare students for admission to and success in a postsecondary educational environment;~~

~~——(2) Ensure that each school district provides high school students with the opportunity to enroll in at least one (1) College Board Advanced Placement course in the four (4) core areas of English, math, science, and social studies; and~~

~~——(3) Outline teacher training requirements.~~

(a) All public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools shall offer at least four (4) accelerated learning courses that cover the following subject areas:

(1) Math;

(2) English;

(3) Science; and

(4) Social studies.

(b) All accelerated learning coursework shall be reflected in a student success plan.

6 CAR § 96-602. Teacher training.

~~(a) A teacher of an AP course must meet~~An instructor of an accelerated learning course shall meet the requirements of:

~~(1) Arkansas teacher licensure requirements~~The approved institution of higher education; and/or

~~(2) The requirements of either subdivision (a)(2)(A) or (a)(2)(B) of this section~~authorized accrediting organization, as defined in Arkansas Code § 6-16-1202, for the following:

(A) A College Board pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement course;

(B) An International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course;

(C) A Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education course;

(D) A concurrent credit course; and

(E) A substantively similar course or program approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

~~————— (A) Attend at least one (1) of the following trainings no less than one (1) time every five (5) years:~~

~~————— (i) College Board Advanced Placement Summer Institute;~~

~~————— (ii) College Board-endorsed training; or~~

~~————— (iii) Other similarly rigorous training approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's Weighted Credit and AP Training Approval Committee; or~~

~~————— (B)(i) Complete an Additional Training Plan (ATP) for Advanced Placement within three (3) years of commencing the ATP.~~

~~————— (ii) The ATP must be filed with the division's Office of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement in the first year of the teaching assignment, and an update must be filed in the additional years the teacher is in need of the plan, for up to two (2) additional years.~~

~~—————(iii) When a teacher completes the requirements of the ATP, completion documentation must be submitted to the office.~~

~~—————(iv) Districts that do not have a teacher who completes the ATP within three (3) years may be found in violation of the Standards for Accreditation of Public Schools and School Districts and may be held responsible for the cost of the associated AP exams.~~

~~——(b) A teacher of a Pre-AP course must meet:~~

~~—————(1) Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements; and~~

~~—————(2) The requirements of either subdivision (b)(2)(A) or (b)(2)(B) of this section:~~

~~—————(A) Attend at least one (1) of the following trainings no less than one (1) time every five (5) years:~~

~~—————(i) College Board-endorsed training in the teacher's content area; or~~

~~—————(ii) Other similarly rigorous training approved by the division's Weighted Credit and AP Training Approval Committee; or~~

~~—————(B)(i) Complete an Additional Training Plan (ATP) for Pre-Advanced Placement within three (3) years of commencing the ATP.~~

~~—————(ii) The ATP must be filed with the office in the first year of the teaching assignment, and an update must be filed in the additional years the teacher is in need of the plan, for up to two (2) additional years.~~

~~—————(iii) When a teacher completes the requirements of the ATP, completion documentation must be submitted to the office.~~

~~——(c) A teacher of a course offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme must:~~

~~—————(1) Meet Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements; and~~

~~—————(2) Attend the training required by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).~~

~~——(d) Weighted credit for designated AP and IB courses will be contingent upon:~~

~~—————(1) The AP teacher obtaining training as outlined in subsection (a) of this section;~~

~~———— (2) The IB teacher obtaining training as outlined in subsection (c) of this section;~~

~~———— (3) The student taking the entire AP or the entire IB course offered in a particular subject; and~~

~~———— (4) The student completing the applicable test offered by the:~~

~~———— (A) College Board for AP courses at the end of the AP course; or~~

~~———— (B) IBO at the time prescribed by the IBO.~~

6 CAR § 96-603. ~~Teacher training subsidy~~ Accelerated learning grant.

~~—— (a) Teachers of Advanced Placement courses, Pre-Advanced Placement courses, or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses must:~~

~~———— (1) Meet Arkansas Teacher Licensure requirements; and~~

~~———— (2) Participate in a training program or programs outlined in 6 CAR § 96-602 of this part.~~

~~—— (b)(1) For a teacher designated by a local school district as an instructor of an Advanced Placement course, Pre-Advanced Placement course, or an International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course, training costs may be covered by a grant administered by the host of the Advanced Placement Summer Institute to cover the cost of tuition, expenses, and materials of approved training programs, not to exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650) per teacher, contingent upon appropriated funding.~~

~~———— (2) Priority for training will be given to teachers who have not been previously trained.~~

~~———— (3) Training not covered by grant funds will be the responsibility of the district, if training is required as a part of the teacher's job requirements.~~

~~—— (c) A teacher who is assigned to teach more than one (1) Advanced Placement, Pre-Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course (i.e., biology, chemistry, etc.) may apply for more than one (1) teacher training stipend, contingent upon appropriated funding.~~

(a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, and upon the discretion of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, a school that is offering or intends to

offer accelerated learning may be awarded a one-time equipment and instructional materials grant to provide accelerated learning courses.

(b)(1) Accelerated learning grants will be administered by the division.

(2) The division shall:

(A) Establish an application form; and

(B) Disseminate it to each local school district and open-enrollment public charter school each year that funds are available.

(c) Public school districts with more than one (1) school providing accelerated learning courses may apply for the one-time equipment grants for each school.

6 CAR § 96-604. ~~Equipment grant~~Fees for students.

~~—(a) Contingent upon appropriated funding, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may annually set aside funds from which schools providing Advanced Placement courses or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses may apply for a one-time equipment and materials grant.~~

~~—(b)(1) Equipment and materials grants will be administered by the division.~~

~~—(2) The division will:~~

~~—(A) Establish a request for proposal form; and~~

~~—(B) Disseminate it to each local school district each year that funds are available.~~

~~—(c) A school may apply for a one-time equipment grant for each Advanced Placement course or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course (two (2) sections of a course such as Advanced Placement American History are considered one (1) course).~~

~~—(d) School districts with more than one (1) high school providing Advanced Placement courses or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses may apply for the one-time equipment grants for each high school.~~

Contingent upon legislative appropriation and the availability of funding, the state may pay in full or on a pro rata basis the cost of the accelerated learning test fee.

~~— 6 CAR § 96-605. Fees for students.~~

~~— (a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation and the availability of funding, the state may pay in full or on a prorata basis the cost of the Advanced Placement Exam fee or the equivalent test fee under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, or both, for students who have successfully completed an associated Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course that meets the requirements of this part.~~

~~— (b)(1) Each school requesting fee payment of students taking Advanced Placement Exams and/or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Exams must submit to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education a copy of the invoice as generated and submitted to either the College Board or the International Baccalaureate Organization upon completion of the exams.~~

~~— (2) The division will contract with the College Board and Educational Testing Services for payment of AP exams contingent upon:~~

~~— (A) Legislative approval; and~~

~~— (B) The availability of funds.~~

~~— 6 CAR § 96-606. School award for exam scores.~~

~~— (a) Depending on the availability of funds, schools may be awarded up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each score of a three (3) or better earned by a student on any Advanced Placement test or the equivalent on any International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Exam.~~

~~— (b) Schools must utilize the funds awarded from students' scores on the Advanced Placement Exam for the schools' Advanced Placement program and funds awarded from students' scores on the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Exams for the schools' International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.~~

~~— (c) An annual report with detailed expenditures of funds awarded to schools from students' scores on the Advanced Placement Exam or Exams and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Exams will be submitted to the Office of Gifted and~~

Talented, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education by July 1 of each school year.

~~6 CAR § 96-607. District requirements.~~

~~(a) Districts are required to offer a minimum of one (1) AP course per year in each of the four (4) core courses of:~~

- ~~———— (1) English;~~
- ~~———— (2) Math;~~
- ~~———— (3) Science; and~~
- ~~———— (4) Social studies.~~

~~(b) All accelerated or advanced course work shall be reflected in a student success plan, including but not limited to:~~

- ~~———— (1) AP and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses;~~
- ~~———— (2) CTE courses; and~~
- ~~———— (3) Endorsed concurrent credit courses.~~

Subpart 7. ~~Computer science education~~Computer Science and Computer Science-related Career and Technical Education

6 CAR § 96-701. ~~Computer science graduation credit requirement.~~Graduation credit requirement.

(a) Beginning with the entering ~~ninth-grade~~ ninth grade class of 2022-2023, a high school student shall be required to earn one (1) unit of computer science credit before the student graduates.

(b) A computer science or computer science-related career and technical education course offered by a high school shall:

- (1) Be of high quality;
- (2) Meet or exceed the ~~curriculum~~academic standards and requirements established by the State Board of Education; and

(3) Be made available in a traditional classroom setting, a blended learning environment, or an online-based or other technology-based format that is tailored to meet the needs of each participating student.

(c) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall designate the computer science and computer science-related career and technical education courses that may be completed in grades eight through twelve (8-12) for computer science credit.

(d)(1) A course shall be approved as a computer science or computer science-related career and technical education course that meets the graduation requirements if its core learning objectives and student work require the creation of computational artifacts.

(2) The course content shall require students to consistently design, develop, analyze, and debug their own algorithms, programs, or scripts to solve problems, automate processes, or analyze data.

(3) Courses may focus on a variety of modern domains including, but not limited to:

(A) Software development;

(B) Cybersecurity;

(C) Data science;

(D) Artificial intelligence; and

(E) Physical computing (e.g., robotics).

(4) A public school may request approval for a course not designated by the division through the course approval process established by the division.

(5) Interdisciplinary courses, such as those in precision agriculture or computational science, that meet the core requirement in this section may be approved.

(d) A course shall not be approved under this section if its primary focus is:

(1) The use of preexisting software applications for the intended use without also requiring students to create original programs and scripts;

(2) Computer-aided drafting that does not include a substantial component of student-created scripting or programming;

- (3) The assembly, maintenance, or repair of computer hardware; or
- (4) Digital literacy, digital citizenship, or keyboard skills.

6 CAR § 96-702. ~~Computer science teacher requirement.~~Teacher requirements.

~~(a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, a~~ A public school district ~~shall~~may employ a computer science teacher at each high school in the district. ~~if the teacher~~ holds either:

(1) A valid Arkansas teaching license; or

(2) A technical permit that includes a computer science certification, endorsement, approval, or technical permit code that meets the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's requirement for a computer science teacher.

~~—(b) The computer science teacher shall be the teacher of record for at least one (1) course each school year through which a student may earn a computer science credit.~~

~~—(c) A computer science teacher may be shared among high schools within the same public school district provided the computer science teacher acts as the teacher of record at each high school in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.~~