

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EMERGENCY RULES GOVERNING CONCURRENT COLLEGE AND HIGH
SCHOOL CREDIT FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE EIGHTH
GRADE**

August 8, 2011

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.01 The purpose of these rules is to establish the requirements and procedures concerning concurrent college and high school credit for students who have completed the eighth grade.

2.0 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- 2.01 These rules shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit for Students Who Have Completed the Eighth Grade.
- 2.02 These rules are enacted pursuant to the authority of the State Board of Education under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-11-105 and Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-223.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

- 3.01 A student who “has successfully completed the eighth grade” is a student who has been promoted to the ninth grade.
- 3.02 A student in grades 9-12 is considered "enrolled" in a public secondary school so long as he/she is counted for average daily membership of the school pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-2303(3)(C).
- 3.03 “Private institution” is defined as an institution of higher education accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

4.0 ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE EIGHTH GRADE

- 4.01 Any student who is enrolled in grades 9-12 in an Arkansas public school shall be eligible to enroll in a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the college or university.

- 4.02 Any public school student in grades 9-12 who enrolls in and successfully completes a course(s) offered by a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution shall be entitled to receive both high school and college grades and credit (credit earned by CLEP examination may not be counted as high school credit) toward graduation, as outlined in these regulations.
- 4.03 Students must comply with applicable enrollment or graduation requirements of the public high school.
- 4.04 Three semester hours of college credit taken by a student in grades 9-12 at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution shall be the equivalent of one-half unit of high school credit.
- 4.05 College credit earned at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university or private institution by an eligible student shall be counted by the high school toward graduation, including credit earned through summer terms.
- 4.06 The student shall be responsible for all costs of higher education courses taken for concurrent college credit.

5.0 2011-2012 PILOT PROJECT

- 5.01 For the 2011-2012 school year only, three semester hours of college credit taken by a public school student in grade 12 at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution shall be the equivalent of one unit of high school credit in the same subject area which shall count toward high school graduation.
- 5.02 For the 2011-2012 school year, a student in grade 12 who possesses an ACT score of 17 or 18 may enroll in developmental education courses in English, reading or mathematics at a publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution.
 - 5.02.1 A three-semester hour developmental education course shall be the equivalent of one-half unit of credit for a high school career focus elective.
 - 5.02.2 Public school students in grade 12 who successfully complete developmental education courses in English, reading and/or mathematics and who have an exit exam score of **19 or higher** on the ACT or an equivalent measure in that subject area will meet minimum state requirements for placement in college-level courses upon admission to a

publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution.

5.02.3 If an Arkansas public college or university or private institution requires a course placement score greater than a score of 19 on the ACT or an equivalent measure, the public school student in grade 12 must meet that institution's admissions/placement requirements.

5.02.4 Public school students in grade 12 who are enrolled in developmental education courses will not be counted for higher education funding purposes.

5.03 Participation in this pilot program is voluntary. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require Arkansas public schools, publicly supported community colleges, technical colleges, four-year colleges or universities, or private institutions to participate in this pilot program.

5.04 This pilot program will be reviewed by the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. In July 2012, the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education shall present its findings to the Arkansas State Board of Education.

EMERGENCY ADOPTION

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Board of Education is authorized to adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary for the implementation of concurrent college and high school credits pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-223; and

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2011, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education recommended that the 2010-2011 concurrent credit pilot program be extended for the 2011-2012 school year in order for additional information to be gathered concerning the effectiveness of the pilot program; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there will be over 30,000 Arkansas public high school seniors who will potentially be eligible to participate in the pilot program; and

WHEREAS, for many Arkansas public school districts, the 2011-2012 school year will begin on August 15, 2011 and students who wish to participate in the pilot program may have to decide whether to do so by that date;

THEREFORE, the Arkansas State Board of Education determines that imminent peril to the welfare of students, schools, school districts and institutions of higher education of this state will exist if this rule is not promulgated on an emergency basis. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and the Arkansas State Board of Education promulgates this rule as an emergency rule pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204. This rule shall become effective immediately upon filing.