ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING

UNIFORM GRADING SCALES FOR PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND FOR OPTIONAL USE IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

October 2005

1.00 Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools

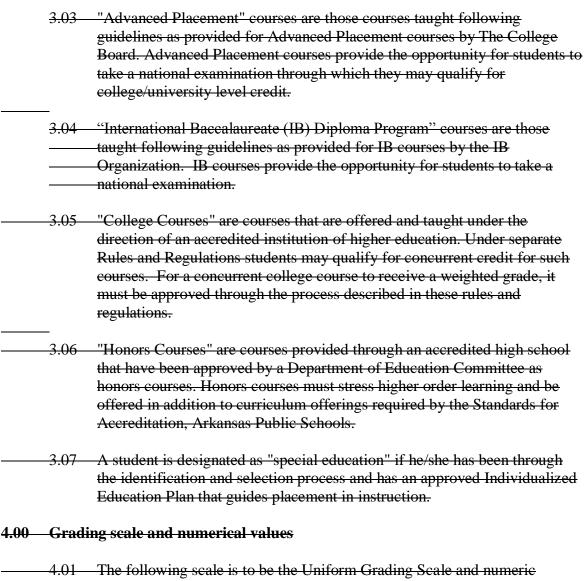
- 1.01 These Rules shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education's Rules Governing Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools and for Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools.
- 1.02 These Rules are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Arkansas Code Ann. § 6-11-105 and Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-902 and Act 2152 of 2005.

2.00 Purpose

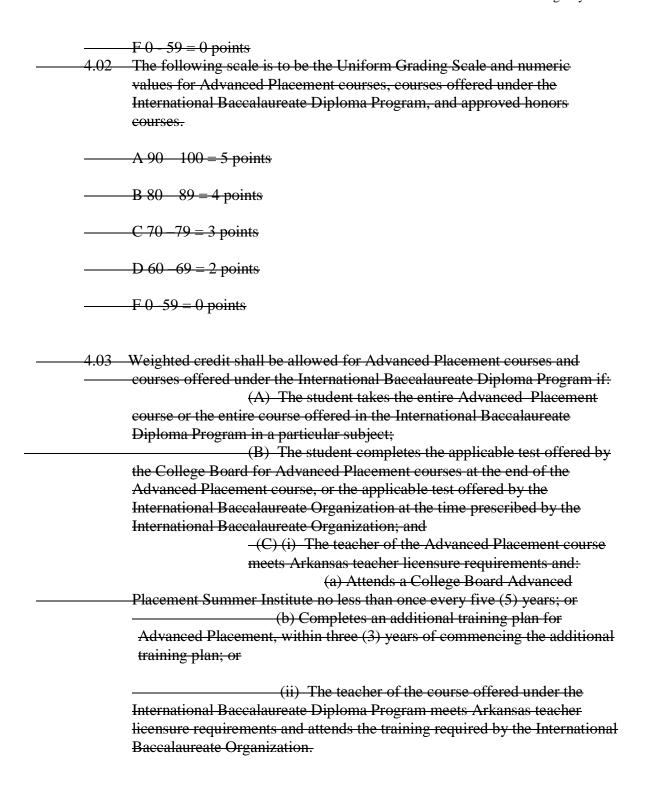
- 2.01 These Rules establish the uniform grading scales to be used by all public secondary schools in the state for regular courses, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, approved weighted honors courses and approved weighted concurrent credit college courses.
 2.02 These Rules establish the numeric value given to each letter grade for the purpose of determining grade average in all public secondary schools in the state for regular courses, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, approved weighted concurrent credit college courses and approved weighted honors courses.
- 2.03 These Rules provide an optional uniform grading scale for public elementary schools.

3.00 Definitions

- 3.01 For the purpose of these Rules, a "secondary school" is any school containing one or more grades from 7 through 12 or any middle school having any combination of grades 5–8 with the exception of a school having only grade 5, grade 6, or the combination of grades 5–6.
- 3.02 An "elementary school" is a school having any combination of one or more grades from kindergarten through grade 6.



values for secondary schools and the optional Uniform Grading Scale for elementary schools. Grades earned in college courses will be assigned the following numeric values when such courses are used to compute student grade point average. A 90 - 100 = 4 points $\frac{B \ 80 - 89 = 3 \text{ points}}{8}$ $\frac{\text{C }70}{\text{79}} = 2 \text{ points}$



5.00 Approval of weighted honors courses and/or weighted concurrent

credit college courses.

- 5.01 A local school district may apply to the Department of Education for approval of courses to be designated as weighted "honors courses."
- 5.02 The local school board may decide whether or not to adopt a local policy to allow high school students in the district to take college courses for weighted credit equal to the numeric grade awarded in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and Arkansas Department of Education approved honors classes.
- 5.03 If a local school board adopts such a policy, the district must apply to the Department of Education for approval of "concurrent enrollment college Courses" to be designated as a weighted course. The application shall be reviewed for approval to assign a numeric grade value, which may include weighted credit.
- 5.04 Applications for weighted honors courses and/ or weighted concurrent college courses will be reviewed for approval based on the following criteria:
 - 1. Letter from the superintendent or principal describing how the course exceeds expectations for coursework required under the Standards for Accreditation, Arkansas Public Schools.
 - 2. Grade level(s) of students who will be enrolled in the course.
 - 3. Statement of learner outcomes, objectives, and/or learning expectations based on revised curriculum frameworks where appropriate.
 - 4. Listing of unit topics to be included in the course.
 - 5. Description of instructional strategies demonstrating problem solving, critical thinking, and higher order learning processes. This description should include at least one exemplary lesson.
 - 6. Description of performance based assessment strategies to be implemented in the classroom.
- 7. Clear evidence that the concurrent credit course is substantially the same as an Advanced Placement Course.