

**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
RULES GOVERNING GRADING AND COURSE CREDIT**

**CHAPTER 1:
REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND DEFINITIONS**

1-1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

1-1.01 These Rules are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-216, 6-15-902, 6-16-152, 6-16-801 et seq., 6-16-1201 et seq., 6-18-223, 6-18-232, and 6-85-401 et seq.

1-2.00 DEFINITIONS

1-2.01 "Additional Training Plan" (ATP) requires Advanced Placement (AP) and Pre-AP teachers to attend appropriate College Board training. Teachers in the plan have up to three (3) years to complete this requirement.

1-2.02 "Advanced Placement (AP)" courses are those courses taught following guidelines as provided for Advanced Placement courses by The College Board. Advanced Placement courses provide the opportunity for students to take a national examination through which they may qualify for college/university level credit.

1-2.03 "Advanced Placement Course" means a high school preparatory course for a College Board Advanced Placement Exam that incorporates all topics specified by The College Board and the Educational Testing Service on ~~its standard~~ the syllabus for a given subject area and is approved ~~by~~ through The College Board and Educational Testing Service.

1-2.04 "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education that meets the requirements of the definition under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-85-402.

1-2.05 "College Board" means The College Board, a mission-driven not-for-profit organization.

1-2.06 "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. An Advanced Placement Exam is administered by Educational Testing Service on behalf of The College Board.

1-2.07 "College Courses" are courses that are offered and taught under the direction of an accredited institution of higher education. Students may qualify for concurrent credit for such courses. For a concurrent college course to receive a weighted grade, it must be approved through the process described in these rules.

1-2.08 "Computer science credit" means one (1) unit of credit earned through the completion of a course or course approved by the State Board and Division of Elementary and Secondary Education that meet the requirements of Chapter 7 of these rules.

1-2.09 "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's requirement for a computer science teacher.

~~1-2.08~~ 1-2.10 "Division" means the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

~~1-2.09~~ 1-2.11 "Elementary school" is a school having any combination of one or more grades from kindergarten through grade 6.

~~1-2.10~~ 1-2.12 "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:

~~1-2.10.1~~ 1-2.12.1 Is one of the four core areas of math, English, science, and social studies; and

~~1-2.10.2~~ 1-2.12.2 Meets the requirements of Section 5-4.00 of these Rules; and

~~1-2.10.3~~ 1-2.12.3 Is listed in the Arkansas Course Transfer System of the Division of Higher Education.

~~1-2.10.4~~ 1-2.12.4 This definition does not affect the ability of school districts to award concurrent credit for those courses which comply with the requirements of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-223.

~~1-2.13~~ 1-2.13 “High school” means any Arkansas public school, including an open-enrollment charter school, which provides instruction to students in grades nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11), or twelve (12).

~~1-2.14~~ 1-2.14 A "Home-schooled student" means a student legally enrolled in an Arkansas home school.

~~1-2.12~~ 1-2.15 “International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB)” means an international education program offered by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).

~~1-2.13~~ 1-2.16 “International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program Courses” are those taught following guidelines as provided for IB courses by the IB Organization. IB courses provide the opportunity for students to take a national examination.

~~1-2.14~~ 1-2.17 “National School Lunch Student” means those students from low socioeconomic backgrounds as indicated by eligibility for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq. and Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-2303.

~~1-2.15~~ 1-2.18 “Pre-Advanced Placement” course means a middle school, junior high school, or high school course that specifically prepares students to enroll and to participate in an Advanced Placement course.

~~1-2.16~~ 1-2.19 “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.

~~1-2.17~~ 1-2.20 "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.

~~1-2.17.1~~ 1-2.20.1 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).

~~1-2.18~~ “Special education” refers to the designation of a student who has been through the identification and selection process and has an approved Individualized Education Plan that guides placement in instruction.

~~1-2.19~~ 1-2.21 “Standards-based grading” is a system of reporting which focuses on student learning and the demonstration of competency or mastery of a set of standards.

~~1-2.20~~ 1-2.22 “Weighted Credit” means additional quality points for designated AP and IB courses that will be contingent upon meeting the requirements set forth in Chapter 6 of this rule. “Weighted Credit” also means additional quality points for courses approved by the Division that meet or exceed the standards of a comparable AP course or for approved career and technical education (CTE) courses, as set forth in Chapter 4 of this rule.

~~1-2.21~~ 1-2.23 “Weighted Credit and AP Training Approval Committee” means a review committee composed of Division program directors and advisors with AP and content expertise, including but not limited to personnel in DESE’s curriculum and gifted and talented offices.

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CHAPTER 7:
COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

7-1.00 Computer Science Graduation Credit Requirement

7-1.01 Beginning with the entering 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.

7-1.02 A computer science course offered by a high school shall:

7-1.02.1 Be of high quality;

7-1.02.2 Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements established by the State Board of Education; and

7-1.02.3 Be made available in a traditional classroom setting, a blended learning environment, an online-based or other technology-based format that is tailored to meet the needs of each participating student.

7-2.00 Computer Science Teacher Requirement

7-2.01 Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, a public school district shall employ a computer science teacher at each high school in the district.

7-2.02 The computer science teacher shall be the teacher of record for at least one course each school year through which a student may earn a computer science credit.

7-2.03 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 Section 7-2.02.