

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FILING PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS
WITH THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND JOINT INTERIM
COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY Arkansas Department of Education
DIVISION Accountability
DIVISION DIRECTOR Dr. Charity Smith
CONTACT PERSON Dr. Gayle Potter
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INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Please make copies of this form for future use.
- B. Please answer each question completely using layman terms. You may use additional sheets, if necessary.
- C. If you have a method of indexing your rules, please give the proposed citation after Short Title of this Rule below.
- D. Submit two (2) copies of this questionnaire attached to the front of two (2) copies of your proposed rule and mail or deliver to:

Donna K. Davis
Subcommittee on Administrative Rules and Regulations
Arkansas Legislative Council
Bureau of Legislative Research
Room 315, State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

- 1. What is the short title of this rule? Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools and for Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools.
- 2. What is the subject of the proposed rule? These rules and regulations establish the uniform grading scales to be used by all public secondary schools in the state for regular courses, Advanced Placement courses, approved weighted honors courses and approved weighted concurrent credit college courses.

- 3. Is this rule required to comply with federal statute or regulations?
Yes _____ No X _____

If yes, please provide the federal regulation and/or statute citation.

- 4. Was this rule filed under the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act? Yes _____ No X _____

If yes, what is the effective date of the emergency rule?

When does the emergency rule expire? N/A

Will this emergency rule be promulgated under the regular provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act? Yes _____ No N/A

5. Is this a new rule? Yes _____ No X

Does this repeal an existing rule? Yes _____ No X
If yes, please provide a copy of the repealed rule.

Is this an amendment to an existing rule? Yes If yes, please attach a markup showing the changes in the existing rule and a summary of the substantive changes.

6. What state law grants the authority for this proposed rule? If codified, please give Arkansas Code citation. Ark. Code Ann. 6-11-105 and Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-902.

7. What is the purpose of this proposed rule? Why is it necessary? To establish the uniform grading scales to be used by all public secondary schools in the state for regular courses, Advanced Placement courses, approved weighted honors courses and approved weighted concurrent credit college courses. This rule 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, approved weighted concurrent credit college courses and approved weighted honors courses. These regulations provide an optional uniform grading scale for public elementary schools.

8. Will a public hearing be held on this proposed rule? Yes X No _____
If yes, please give the date, time, and place of the public hearing.
November 15, 2001, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at the Arkansas Department of Education, 4 Capitol Mall, in the Auditorium.

9. When does the public comment period expire? November 13, 2001.

10. What is the proposed effective date of this proposed rule? February 16, 2001.

11. Do you expect this rule to be controversial? Yes _____ No X
If yes, please explain.

12. Please give the names of persons, groups, or organizations which you expect to comment on these rules. Please provide their position (for or against) if known.

N/A

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY

July 28, 1995

DEPARTMENT Arkansas Department of Education
DIVISION Accountability
PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT Dr. Gayle Potter
TELEPHONE NO. (501) 682-4558 FAX NO. (501) 682-4556

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

To comply with Act 1104 of 1995, please complete the following Financial Impact Statement and file with the questionnaire and proposed rules.

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE : UNIFORM GRADING SCALE FOR PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND FOR OPTIONAL USE IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?
Yes _____ No X
2. If you believe that the development of a financial impact statement is so speculative as to be cost prohibited, please explain. N/A
3. If the purpose of this rule or regulation is to implement a federal rule or regulation, please give the incremental cost for implementing the regulation.

2001-02 Fiscal Year - N/A

2002-03 Fiscal Year - N/A

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other _____
Total _____

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other _____
Total _____

4. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any party subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation? N/A

2001-02 Fiscal Year

2002-03 Fiscal Year

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to the agency to implement this regulation? N/A

2001-02 Fiscal Year

2002-03 Fiscal Year

July 28, 1995

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
OF PROPOSED REGULATION
(In compliance with Acts 884 and 1253 of 1995)

Regulation Title: Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools and For Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools.

Summary Description of Regulatory Proposal: To establish the uniform grading scales to be used by all public secondary schools in the state for regular courses, Advanced Placement courses, approved weighted honors courses and approved weighted concurrent credit college courses. This rule 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, approved weighted concurrent credit college courses and approved weighted honors courses. These regulations provide an optional uniform grading scale for public elementary schools.

Cite Statutory Authority for this Regulatory Proposal: Act 1121

I. Fiscal Impact on the Department: (include whether impacts are non-recurring or recurring)

- A. Resources Required - Personnel, equipment, office space.
None, other than current employees.
- B. Time Required for Implementation.
N/A
- C. Procedural Changes.
N/A
- D. Other.

II. Fiscal Impact on Local School District or Others? (Include whether impacts are non-recurring or recurring)

- A. Resources Required - Personnel, equipment, office space.
None, other than current employees.
- B. Time Required for Implementation.
By October 1, 2002
- C. Procedural Changes.
N/A
- D. Other.

III. Additional Comments.

Prepared by: Dr. Gayle Potter
Associate Director, Academic Standards and Assessment
October 12, 2001

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING
UNIFORM GRADING SCALES FOR PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND
FOR OPTIONAL USE IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

January 2002

1.00 Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools

- 1.01 These regulations shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education's Rules and Regulations Governing Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools and for Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools.
- 1.02 These rules and regulations 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.

2.00 Purpose

- 2.01 These rules and regulations establish the uniform grading scales to be used by all public secondary schools in the state for regular courses, Advanced Placement courses, approved weighted honors courses and approved weighted concurrent credit college courses.
- 2.02 These rules and regulations 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, approved weighted concurrent credit college courses and approved weighted honors courses.
- 2.03 These regulations provide an optional uniform grading scale for public elementary schools.

3.00 Definitions

- 3.01 For the purpose of these regulations 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.
- 3.03 "Advanced Placement" 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.

- 3.04 "College Courses" are courses that are offered and taught under the direction of an accredited institution of higher education. Under separate Rules and Regulations 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 and regulations.
- 3.05 "Honors Courses" are courses provided through an accredited high school that have been approved by a Department of Education Committee as honors courses. Honors courses must stress higher order learning and be offered in addition to curriculum offerings required by the Standards for Accreditation, Arkansas Public Schools.
- 3.06 A student is designated as "special education" if he/she has been through the identification and selection process and has an approved Individualized Education Plan that guides placement in instruction.

4.00 Grading scale and numerical values

- 4.01 The following scale is to be the Uniform Grading Scale and numeric 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

B 80 – 89 = 3 points

C 70 – 79 = 2 points

D 60 – 69 = 1 point

F 0 - 59 = 0 points

- 4.02 The following scale is to be the Uniform Grading Scale and numeric values for advanced placement courses and approved honors courses.

A 90 – 100 = 5 points

B 80 – 89 = 4 points

C 70 – 79 = 3 points

D 60 –69 = 2 points

F 0 -59 = 0 points

5.00 Special education notation

- 5.01 No notation of the special education nature of a class or course is recommended or required.
- 5.02 Student transcripts that indicate enrollment in special education classes outside the regular classroom, are limited to the following notation:
"Placement in the class was based on the student's individualized education plan."

6.00 Approval of weighted honors courses and/or weighted concurrent credit college courses.

- 6.01 A local school district may apply to the Department of Education for approval of courses to be designated as weighted “honors courses.”
- 6.02 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 and Arkansas Department of Education approved honors classes.
- 6.03 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.
- 6.04 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 .