

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
CENTRAL DIVISION**

RUTHIE WALLS, et al.

PLAINTIFFS,

v.

No. 4:24-cv-00270-LPR

**HON. SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, in her
official capacity as the Governor of the State of
Arkansas, et al.**

DEFENDANTS.

DECLARATION OF SECRETARY JACOB OLIVA

I, Jacob Oliva, am over the age of 18, am competent to testify and have personal knowledge regarding the statements contained in this affidavit, do hereby state, and verify the following:

1. In January 2023, I was appointed as Secretary for the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). In addition to this role, the State Board of Education also selected me as commissioner of ADE's Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

2. My professional and personal experience has been dedicated to advancing elementary and high school education.

3. Before my appointment in Arkansas, I served in many senior leadership roles at the Florida Department of Education, including as interim commissioner. In this position, I supported more than 2.8 million students in approximately 3,600 Florida public schools. In 2021, I was selected to be senior chancellor, and my responsibilities expanded to include early learning, school choice programs, school safety, and school accountability. My prior experience includes working as an elementary teacher for students with special needs, serving as a principal at both the elementary and high school levels, and as a superintendent at Flagler County Schools in Florida.

4. As Secretary of ADE, I oversee various state agencies within ADE, which include the Division of Higher Education, DESE, Division of Career and Technical Education, Arkansas State

Library, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, Arkansas School for the Deaf, Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Northwest Technical Institute.

5. As Commissioner, I oversee DESE, which supports Arkansas's 1,058 K-12 public schools in 260 school districts and public charter schools. I also am an ex-officio secretary of the Arkansas State Board of Education and sit on other ADE boards.

6. I have worked with College Board in my prior and current roles in state public education and am familiar with College Board's advanced placement (AP) course programing, including assessment and auditing. College Board and Educational Testing Service (College Board) is the organization that develops AP courses and exams. College Board is a non-profit organization based in New York.

7. "AP" is an official designation of College Board. To be considered an "AP" course by College Board, the course must go through College Board's AP Course Audit. College Board produces the framework for each course, including the curricular and exam requirements. College Board produces the AP exams that students must complete and achieve a qualifying score to receive college credit for an AP course.

8. Arkansas DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit set forth the rules pertaining to Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program. Pursuant to these rules, an "Advanced Placement Course" is defined as a high school course that prepares a student to take a College Board Advanced Placement test. An AP course must incorporate all topics specified by College Board on its standard syllabus for a given subject area and it must be approved by College Board. A "College Board Advanced Placement Test" is the Advanced Placement test administered by College Board and Educational Testing Service.

9. Arkansas public high schools are required to offer 38 courses per the Standards for Accreditation. *See* Required Course listed, attached hereto as Exhibit A. Arkansas students graduating from a public school or public charter school must meet or exceed the minimum 22 graduation credit requirements as adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Education. *See* Arkansas Graduation Requirements Handout and Arkansas Graduation Course Code List, attached collectively as Exhibit B. For courses only lasting one semester, students are given .5 credit; courses offered for two semesters are given 1 credit. School districts may require more than 22 credits for graduation.

10. Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks are the academic standards and expected learning outcomes for a particular course. For courses that do not have an established Arkansas Curriculum Framework, there is a process allowing local schools and districts to submit a course for approval to be used to satisfy the 38 courses required to be offered per the Standards for Accreditation or to meet any of the 22 required credits for graduation.

11. A local school district board of directors can adopt a policy to allow high school students in that district to take college courses for weighted credit equal to the numeric grade awarded in AP courses, courses offered through the International Baccalaureate program, and other ADE-approved weighted classes.

12. If the local school board adopts such a policy, there is a process for applying to the DESE Weighted Credit and AP Training Approval Committee for those courses to be weighted and used to satisfy the 38 required course offerings and 22 required graduation credits. To obtain course approval, individual districts must make a request through the online Course Approval System and submit various materials. If approved, ADE issues an individual course code for that district.

13. Local school districts have the discretion to offer additional courses to students, beyond the 38 that are required. If not being used to satisfy the 38 required courses or 22 graduation credits, ADE approval is not required even if weighted credit is awarded.

14. ADE publishes annually a list of courses through the course code management system and releases an updated spreadsheet reflecting changes, deletions, and additions. On March 25, 2024, a course catalog was published for the 2024-2025 school year. The catalog is a list of all courses approved by ADE for schools in Arkansas.

15. College Board first introduced AP African American Studies (AAS) as a “pilot” program for the 2022-2023 school year. The pilot did not include an audit or AP exam, and it therefore did not satisfy the requirements of Arkansas law for an Advanced Placement Course.

16. College Board contacted school districts directly to participate in the pilot. A request was made to ADE for an AP course code. Historically, the AP offerings are official College Board courses, meaning an audit was completed and AP examination administered. In this instance, an AP course code was issued as an oversight because it was still a pilot program. Specifically, no audit had been conducted by College Board as required to qualify as a course and the official course materials were not provided as required to satisfy the AP requirements. Nor was an AP examination conducted. Students were given an assessment for standard setting for the course, but it was not graded for the purpose of awarding college credit. Therefore, the pilot could not satisfy the requirements of Arkansas law for an advanced placement course and students would not have the ability to earn college credit.

17. The pilot program was offered during the 2022-2023 school year at The Academies at Jonesboro High School and Little Rock Central High School. It was a partnership between College Board and the respective school districts. Due to the oversight in issuing a course code for the pilot

program, students who completed AP AAS that year received both weighted GPA credit and one elective credit toward the 22-credit graduation requirement.

18. When the oversight was identified, AP AAS was removed from the ADE Course Catalogue for the 2023-2024 school year because it did not meet the standards for an advanced placement class under Arkansas law and ADE Rules. Specifically, for that school year it was still being offered only as a pilot (not an approved course) and the official framework, audit, and AP exam from College Board was not available for approval as required for all advanced placement classes.

19. Nevertheless, ADE created a path for students enrolled in the AAS pilot for 2023-2024 to remain in the course and receive local credit. Every school that volunteered with College Board to participate in the pilot utilized this path, which allowed students to earn local weighted credit that appears on their high school transcripts and counts toward calculation of their GPA. Students were also able to sit for an AP examination, if offered by College Board, and potentially receive college credit.

20. Six schools participated in the second year of the AP AAS pilot—Little Rock Central High School, North Little Rock High School, North Little Rock Center of Excellence, The Academies at Jonesboro High School, Jacksonville High School and eStem High School. ADE provided a course code for local elective credit for these schools and advised how to award weighted GPA credit. *See* Exhibit C.

21. More than halfway through the 2023-2024 school year, on January 19, 2024, College Board notified ADE that it would be offering a fully operational AP examination for the AAS pilot, which was after several revisions were made to the pilot framework. Unlike any assessments administered thus far, scores for this examination will be available for college credit consideration.

22. ADE pays for examinations for all advanced placement courses, as defined by Arkansas law. It is my understanding that the cost for the AP AAS examination offered as part of the pilot for the 2023-2024 school year was paid at the district level. In my opinion, College Board should not have charged fees for assessments in a pilot course where it is unknown whether colleges will award credit for the examination.

23. The 2024-2025 school year is the first time College Board will offer AP AAS as an official AP course. College Board did not publish AP AAS as a course until Spring 2024, after the AP Course audit was complete. *See Exhibit D.*

24. College Board develops the AP course framework, which outlines what students must know, and be able to do, to earn college credit or placement. It was not until College Board submitted the Operational Course Framework, Project, and Exam Overview to ADE that the course could be evaluated on whether it qualified as an advanced placement course as defined by Arkansas law.

25. AP AAS is a course listed in the ADE Course Catalogue for the 2024-2025 school year. ADE approval was based on College Board's confirmation that the framework, audit, fully operational exam, and teacher resources were complete, as required by Arkansas law. The course is offered as a career-focused elective credit, as are other AP courses such as AP European History, AP Psychology, and AP Human Geography. Six of the 22 credits required for graduation in Arkansas are designated as "Career Focus or Content Electives." These courses cannot be used to fulfill the three social studies credits required to graduate. *See Exhibit A.*

26. African American History is not AP AAS. It is a different course already approved by ADE. It has different academic standards than AP AAS. African American History is given over one semester (.5 credit) and has been approved as a career-focused credit toward graduation.


Districts interested in offering a year-long, 1-credit Honors African American History course were invited to work with the DESE Curriculum unit to outline additional standards and expectations to obtain approval for weighted credit and an individual course code. No school district contacted ADE to take advantage of this option.

27. In addition to the above, DESE provides resources for the teaching of African American History. These resources include lessons and materials for the teaching of historical contributions made by African Americans in the United States and in other countries prior to the establishment of the United States. These materials and resources are available for inclusion in the appropriate curricula of all K-12 at all public schools in Arkansas. ADE reviews teaching materials it offers and makes updates as necessary.

28. ADE continues to collaborate with College Board about the approval and implementation of this course, as is standard for all College Board AP courses.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



Jacob Oliva
Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education

4/26/24

Date

Arkansas Required High School Courses*

This set of unique courses must be offered even if they fall into two categories.

(DESE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts, Appendix A, Standard 1-A.1.3)

Schools must offer the following:

- (1) One math and one literacy transitional course
[A.C.A. § 6-15-2012(b)]
- (2) At least one Advanced Placement (AP) course in each of the core areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
(A.C.A. § 6-16-1204)
- (3) Arkansas History if not taught in the 7th or 8th grade
(A.C.A. § 6-16-124)

Please Note:

Approved Pre-AP courses may be implemented in lieu of the corresponding courses in the required list. The Pre-AP crosswalk is located on the DESE course approval webpage.

English Language Arts (ELA)	
Must offer 2 credits from below	
410000 English 9	1 credit
411000 English 10	1 credit
Must offer 2 credits from below	
412000 English 11	1 credit
413000 English 12	1 credit
418010 English 11/12 U.S. History Seminal Documents	0.5 credit
418020 English 11/12 Cross-Cultural Literature	0.5 credit
418030 English 11/12 Comparative Literature	0.5 credit
418040 English 11/12 Film as Literature	0.5 credit
418100 English 11/12 Public Relations	0.5 credit
418110 English 11/12 Reading and Writing for Business	0.5 credit
418120 English 11/12 Mass Communications	0.5 credit
418200 English 11/12 Reading and Writing for STEM	0.5 credit
418210 English 11/12 Entrepreneurship and Innovation	0.5 credit
418220 English 11/12 Technical Reading and Writing for Trade and Industry	0.5 credit
Must offer 0.5 credit from below	
414200 Oral Communication: Personal Communication	0.5 credit
414210 Oral Communication: Professional Communication	0.5 credit
Must offer 2 credits from below	
419110 Strategic Reading Grade 9 (as well as courses for Grades 10-12)	1 credit
417010 Creative Writing	0.5 credit
414050 Debate I	1 credit
416000 ELA Drama	0.5 credit
414020 Forensics I	1 credit
415000 Journalism I	1 credit
496030 Transitional Literacy Ready	1 credit
Additional English 11/12 courses	0.5 credit
AP English Offerings**	1 credit
Official International Baccalaureate (IB) Offerings	1 credit
<i>** Must offer at least one AP course in ELA</i>	
Total required English Language Arts:	6.5 credits

World Languages	
Must offer 2 credits from the same language	
Total required World Languages:	2 credits

Health and Wellness	
480000 Health and Wellness	0.5 credit
Total required Health and Wellness:	0.5 credit

Computer Science	
Must offer 1 credit from below	
Any ADE Approved Computer Science Course Beginning with 465 or 565	1 credit
Total required Computer Science:	1 credit

Mathematics	
Must offer 4 credits from below	
430000 Algebra I	1 credit
431000 Geometry	1 credit
432000 Algebra II	1 credit
433000 Pre Calculus	1 credit
Must offer 2 credits from below	
439070 Algebra III (Transitional)	1 credit
434010 Calculus	1 credit
439120 Quantitative Reasoning (Transitional) +	1 credit
439090 Statistics	1 credit
439130 Technical Math for College and Career AP Math Offerings**	1 credit
Official International Baccalaureate (IB) Offerings	1 credit
<i>** Must offer at least one AP course in Mathematics</i>	
<i>+ Required Course Offering by SY26-27</i>	
Total required Mathematics:	6 credits

Science	
Must offer 3 credits from below	
423000 Physical Science - Integrated	1 credit
420000 Biology Integrated	1 credit
421000 Chemistry - Integrated	1 credit
Must offer 2 credits from below	
425050 Astronomy	1 credit
421010 Chemistry II	1 credit
425020 Earth Science	1 credit
424020 Environmental Science	1 credit
424030 Anatomy/Physiology	1 credit
422010 Physics	1 credit
AP Science Offerings**	1 credit
Official International Baccalaureate (IB) Offerings	1 credit
<i>** Must offer at least one AP course in Science</i>	
Total required Science:	5 credits

Career Education	
Must offer three (3) program of study representing three (3) different pathways. One of which must meet the high wage and high growth designation as indicated by the department.	
Total required Career Education:	9 credits
1 Credit = 1 Full-Year Course; 0.5 Credit = 1 Semester Course	
<i>*Formerly known as the Arkansas Required 38 High School Courses</i>	

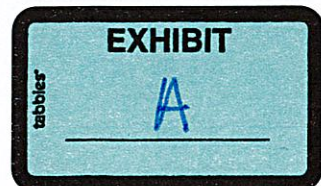
Social Studies	
Must offer 3 credits from below	
470000 United States History Since 1929	1 credit
471000 World History Since 1450	1 credit
472000 Civics	0.5 credit
474300 Economics with Personal Finance	0.5 credit
Must offer 1 credit from below	
473000 Arkansas History	0.5 credit
474700 African American History	0.5 credit
474400 Psychology	0.5 credit
474500 Sociology	0.5 credit
474100 United States Government	0.5 credit
474600 World Geography	0.5 credit
AP Social Studies Offerings**	1 credit
Official International Baccalaureate (IB) Offerings	1 credit
<i>** Must offer at least one AP course in Social Studies</i>	
Total required Social Studies:	4 credits

Fine Arts	
Must offer 2 credits from below	
450000 Visual Art Foundations I	1 credit
452000 Vocal Ensemble I	1 credit
Must offer 1 credit from below	
451000 Band I	1 credit
451200 Jazz Band I	1 credit
451100 Orchestra I	1 credit
Must offer 0.5 credit from below	
Any Fine Arts course within the approved discipline areas:	
- Music	
- Visual Art	
- Theater	
- Dance	
- Official AP and IB offerings	
Total required Fine Arts:	3.5 credits

Physical Education	
Must offer 1 credit from below	
485010 Personal Fitness for Life	0.5 credit
485020 Recreational Sports	0.5 credit
485030 Outdoor Pursuits	0.5 credit
485040 Athletics	0.5 credit
Total required Physical Education:	1 credit

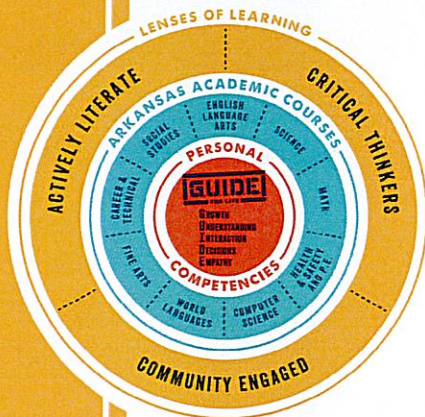


DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION



ARKANSAS

Graduation Requirements



Course Requirements	Credit
English Language Arts	4
ADE-Approved English 9	1
ADE-Approved English 10	1
ADE-Approved English 11	1
ADE-Approved English 12	1
Mathematics	4
Algebra I	1
Geometry	1
Algebra II or Quantitative Reasoning	1
ADE-Approved Mathematics or Computer Science Flex Credit	1
Science	3
ADE-Approved Biology	1
ADE-Approved Physical Science (Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics)	1
ADE-Approved third Science or Computer Science Flex Credit	1
Social Studies	3
ADE-Approved World History	1
ADE-Approved U.S. History	1
ADE-Approved Civics	0.5
ADE-Approved Economics with Personal Finance	0.5
Physical Education	0.5
Fine Arts	0.5
Oral Communication	0.5
Health & Safety	0.5
Career Focus or Content Electives	6
Total	22

Other Requirements

- An AR graduate shall complete a minimum of 75 clock hours of documented community service in grades 9-12; requirement begins for 2027 graduates. - A.C.A. § 6-16-1901
- An AR graduate must earn credit in a course that includes Personal and Family Finance Standards in grades 9-12. - A.C.A. § 6-16-135
- An AR graduate must pass with a 60% the Arkansas Civics Exam. - A.C.A. § 6-16-149
- An AR graduate must complete CPR training. - A.C.A. § 6-16-143
- An AR graduate must earn one credit of ADE-Approved Computer Science or computer science-related career and technical education course; requirement begins for 2026 graduates. - A.C.A. § 6-16-152

For more information, visit
<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/>

Last Update: 4.4.24

EXHIBIT

B

tabbles



ARKANSAS GRADUATION COURSE CODE LIST
SY 2024-25

Note: Please review the CTE Crosswalk for SY 2024-2025 for DCTE courses that can count for specific content credits.

English Language Arts

English 9 - 1 Credit

- 517030 AP English Language and Composition
- 517040 AP English Literature and Composition
- 517060 AP Seminar
- 519910 Concurrent Credit English 9
- 410000 English 9
- 510040 ESL English 9
- 411100 Pre-AP English 1

English 10 - 1 Credit

- 517030 AP English Language and Composition
- 517040 AP English Literature and Composition
- 517070 AP Research
- 517060 AP Seminar
- 519920 Concurrent Credit English 10
- 411000 English 10
- 511030 ESL English 10
- 411100 Pre-AP English 2

English 11 - 1 Credit

- 517030 AP English Language and Composition
 - 517040 AP English Literature and Composition
 - 517070 AP Research
 - 517060 AP Seminar
 - 519930 Concurrent Credit English 11
 - 412000 English 11
 - 512010 English 11 (Weighted - requires ADE approval)
 - 512030 ESL English 11
 - 517100 International Baccalaureate (IB) English 11
- Or 1 full credit from the 11/12 English Section.

English 12 - 1 Credit

- 517030 AP English Language and Composition
 - 517040 AP English Literature and Composition
 - 517070 AP Research
 - 517060 AP Seminar
 - 519940 Concurrent Credit English 12
 - 413000 English 12
 - 513010 English 12 (Weighted - requires ADE approval)
 - 513030 ESL English 12
 - 517200 International Baccalaureate (IB) English 12
 - 519900 Other Concurrent Credit Language Arts
 - 413010 Transitional English 12
- Or 1 full credit from the 11/12 English Section.

English 11/12 Section - The 0.5 credit courses from the list below may be combined to fulfill 11th and/or 12th Grade English.

- 418030 Comparative Literature
- 418020 Cross-Cultural Literature
- 418210 Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- 418040 Film as Literature
- 418120 Mass Communications
- 418100 Public Relations
- 418110 Reading and Writing for Business Professions
- 418200 Reading and Writing for STEM Professions
- 418220 Technical Reading/Writing for Trade & Industry
- 418010 U.S. History Seminal Documents

Social Studies

Civics - 0.5 Credit

- 572040 AP United States Government & Politics (for Civics credit)
- 472000 Civics (0.5 credit)
- 572000 Civics (0.5 credit) (requires ADE approval)
- 579930 Concurrent Credit Civics

World History - 1 Credit

- 571020 AP World History
- 579910 Concurrent Credit World History
- 471100 Pre-AP World History
- 571000 World History (requires ADE approval)
- 571010 World History (Weighted - requires ADE approval)
- 471000 World History Since 1450

Personal Finance

see <https://bit.ly/3830LJE>

United States History - 1 Credit

- 570020 AP United States History
- 579920 Concurrent Credit United States History
- 570050 International Baccalaureate (IB) History of the Americas
- 570030 United States History (requires ADE approval)
- 570010 United States History (Weighted - requires ADE approval)
- 470000 United States History Since 1929

Economics - 0.5 Credit

- 579130 ADE Approved AP Macroeconomics & Personal Finance (0.5 credit)
- 579140 ADE Approved AP Microeconomics & Personal Finance (0.5 credit)
- 574000 Concurrent Credit Economics with Personal Finance (1 credit)
- 474300 Economics with Personal Finance (0.5 credit)
- 492290 Financial Planning (0.5 Econ/PF credit, 1.0 Career Focus credit)

Math

Algebra I - 1 Credit

- 430000 Algebra I
- 530020 Algebra I (requires ADE approval)
- 430300 Pre-AP Algebra I

Geometry - 1 Credit

- 431000 Geometry
- 531020 Geometry (requires ADE approval)
- 431300 Pre-AP Geometry w/Statistics

Algebra II or Quantitative Reasoning - 1 Credit

- 432000 Algebra II
- 432300 Pre-AP Algebra 2
- 539160 International Baccalaureate (IB) Math: Applications and Interpretation SL Year 1
- 439120 Quantitative Reasoning

Fourth Math or Computer Science Flex* - 1 Credit - A CS Flex credit or one of the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 492110 Accounting II | 465710 Data Science Year 1 |
| 432000 Algebra II | 465720 Data Science Year 2 |
| 439070 Algebra III | 465730 Data Science Year 3 Advanced |
| 534040 AP Calculus AB | 495460 Digital Electronics |
| 534050 AP Calculus BC | 495470 Engineering Design and Development (PLTW) |
| 533030 AP Precalculus | 465670 Game Development and Design Year 1 |
| 539030 AP Statistics | 465680 Game Development & Design Year 2 |
| 539090 Applied Data Science | 465690 Game Development & Design Year 3 Advanced |
| 494730 Architecture/CADD/II | 565330 International Baccalaureate (IB) Computer Science HL |
| 465410 Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Year 1 | 565230 International Baccalaureate (IB) Computer Science SL |
| 465420 Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Year 2 | 539160 International Baccalaureate (IB) Math: Applications and Interpretation SL Year 1 |
| 465430 Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Year 3 Adv | 539170 International Baccalaureate (IB) Math: Applications and Interpretation SL Year 2 |
| 434010 Calculus | 465370 Mobile Application Development Year 1 |

ARKANSAS GRADUATION COURSE CODE LIST
SY 2024-25

Note: Please review the CTE Crosswalk for SY 2024-2025 for DCTE courses that can count for specific content credits.

534020	Calculus (Weighted - requires ADE approval)	465380	Mobile Application Development Year 2
491630	CASE: Ag Power and Technical System Weighted Credit	465390	Mobile Application Development Year 3 Advanced
565130	College Board AP Computer Science A	465170	Networking Year 1
565030	College Board AP Computer Science Principles	465180	Networking Year 2
465470	Computer Engineering Year 1	465190	Networking Year 3 Advanced
465480	Computer Engineering Year 2	432300	Pre-AP Algebra 2
465490	Computer Engineering Year 3 Advanced	433000	Pre Calculus
465930	Computer Science Independent Study	533020	Pre Calculus (requires ADE approval)
465940	Computer Science Internship	465070	Programming Year 1
539900	Concurrent Credit College Algebra	465080	Programming Year 2
539970	Concurrent Credit College-Site Technical Math	465090	Programming Year 3 Advanced
539980	Concurrent Credit Math Beyond Algebra II	439120	Quantitative Reasoning
539940	Concurrent Credit Pre Calculus/Trigonometry	465570	Robotics Year 1
539150	Concurrent Credit Quantitative Reasoning	465580	Robotics Year 2
539950	Concurrent Credit Statistics	465590	Robotics Year 3 Advanced
465270	Cybersecurity Year 1	439090	Statistics
465280	Cybersecurity Year 2	439130	Technical Math for College and Career
465290	Cybersecurity Year 3 Advanced		

Science

Biology - 1 Credit

520030	AP Biology
420000	Biology - Integrated
520010	Biology - Integrated (Weighted - requires ADE approval)
529910	Concurrent Credit Biology
529030	International Baccalaureate (IB) Biology I
529060	International Baccalaureate (IB) Biology II
420100	Pre-AP Biology

Physical Science Credit - 1 Credit

494980	Aerospace Engineering Weighted Credit
521030	AP Chemistry
522080	AP Physics 1
522090	AP Physics 2
522040	AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
522050	AP Physics C: Mechanics
421000	Chemistry - Integrated
521020	Chemistry - Integrated (requires ADE approval)
421010	Chemistry II
529930	Concurrent Credit Chemistry
529920	Concurrent Credit Physical Science
529940	Concurrent Credit Physics
493960	Engineering II
521040	International Baccalaureate (IB) Chemistry I
521050	International Baccalaureate (IB) Chemistry II
522060	International Baccalaureate (IB) Physics I
522070	International Baccalaureate (IB) Physics II
423000	Physical Science - Integrated
523010	Physical Science (Weighted - requires ADE approval)
422010	Physics
522010	Physics (Weighted - requires ADE approval)
421300	Pre-AP Chemistry

Third Science or Computer Science Flex* - 1 Credit

An additional Biology, Physical Science, CS Flex, or 1 of the following:


424030	Anatomy/Physiology
523030	AP Environmental Science
465410	Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Year 1
465420	Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Year 2
465430	Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Year 3 Adv
425050	Astronomy
491470	CASE: Natural Resources & Ecology
491160	CASE: Principles of Agriculture: Animal
491170	CASE: Principles of Agriculture: Plant
493130	Chemistry of Foods
565130	College Board AP Computer Science A
565030	College Board AP Computer Science Principles
465470	Computer Engineering Year 1
465480	Computer Engineering Year 2
465490	Computer Engineering Year 3 Advanced
465930	Computer Science Independent Study
465940	Computer Science Internship
524030	Concurrent Credit Anatomy and Physiology
525050	Concurrent Credit Astronomy
525030	Concurrent Credit Earth Science
524040	Concurrent Credit Environmental Science
465270	Cybersecurity Year 1
465280	Cybersecurity Year 2
465290	Cybersecurity Year 3 Advanced
465710	Data Science Year 1
465720	Data Science Year 2
465730	Data Science Year 3 Advanced
425020	Earth Science
424020	Environmental Science
495430	Environmental Sustainability
465680	Game Development & Design Year 2
465690	Game Development & Design Year 3 Advanced
465670	Game Development and Design Year 1
495010	Human Body Systems
493980	Innovations in Science and Technology III
565330	International Baccalaureate (IB) Computer Science HL
565230	International Baccalaureate (IB) Computer Science SL
529050	International Baccalaureate (IB) Environmental Systems and Societies
465370	Mobile Application Development Year 1
465380	Mobile Application Development Year 2
465390	Mobile Application Development Year 3 Advanced
491470	Natural Resources & Ecology (CASE) Weighted Credit
465170	Networking Year 1
465180	Networking Year 2
465190	Networking Year 3 Advanced
491160	Principles of Agriculture Science-Animal (CASE) Weighted Credit
491170	Principles of Agriculture Science-Plant (CASE) Weighted Credit
465070	Programming Year 1
465080	Programming Year 2
465090	Programming Year 3 Advanced
465570	Robotics Year 1
465580	Robotics Year 2
465590	Robotics Year 3 Advanced

Other Content Areas

***Computer Science - Optional Flex Credit**
 (optional credits for 4th math or 3rd science requirements)

Physical Education - 0.5 Credit

485040	Athletics
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 ARKANSAS GRADUATION COURSE CODE LIST SY 2024-25	
Note: Please review the CTE Crosswalk for SY 2024-2025 for DCTE courses that can count for specific content credits.	
any course starting with 465 or 565. see https://goo.gl/y95ZTc	585900 Concurrent Credit Physical Ed. 485950 JROTC Physical Education 485030 Outdoor Pursuits 485010 Personal Fitness for Life 585010 Physical Education (requires ADE approval) 485020 Recreational Sports
Oral Communication - 0.5 Credit 491300 Advanced Ag Leadership & Communications 514000 Concurrent Credit Oral Communication 414050 Debate I 414020 Forensics I 414100 Integrated Oral Communication NT 514010 Oral Comm. (Weighted - requires ADE approval) 514020 Oral Communication (requires ADE approval) 414200 Oral Communication: Personal Communication 414210 Oral Communication: Professional Communication	Fine Arts - 0.5 Credit Credit chosen from courses coded 450000 - 459999 or 550010 - 559999, 494150, 494170, 494710, 494700, 494740, 490890
Career Focus - 6 Credits Unused credits chosen from courses beginning with a 4 or 5.	Health and Safety - 0.5 Credit 580010 Health and Safety (requires ADE approval) 480000 Health and Wellness 480950 JROTC Health 580900 Other Concurrent Credit Health Ed.

Subject: Clarification
Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 2:45:59 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Stacy Smith (ADE) <Stacy.Smith@ade.arkansas.gov>
To: Kim Wilbanks <kim.wilbanks@jonesboroschools.net>, Wright, Jermall <Jermall.Wright@lrzd.org>, Gregory Pilewski <pilewskig@lrzd.org>, Wright, Jermall <Jermall.Wright@lrzd.org>, cherie.labat@estemschools.org <cherie.labat@estemschools.org>
Attachments: Clarifications.docx

Superintendents,

Thank you for working with us regarding the AP pilot program. I've attached a clarification document regarding course code options.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Stacy Smith, Ed. S.
Deputy Commissioner

Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201



Use of an Alternate Course Code

Local Credit Course Code: 696000

Districts may add weighted credits to local credits without department approval. To do so, districts need to adjust the course scale to 5 within the system.

I've received several questions regarding Social Studies requirements and credits, which are listed below. Additional Social Studies credits are not required by the state.

Graduation Requirements- 3 credits

World History- 1 required

US History- 1 required

Economics- .5 required

Civics- .5 required

African American History

Approved standards are located on the DESE [website](#).

Social Studies Credit: .5

Course Code 474700

*Districts interested in offering an Honor African American year-long course may work with the DESE Curriculum unit to outline additional standards and expectations for weighted credit.

An individual course code will be provided to districts who chose this option.

About AP

The Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies—with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both—while still in high school. Through AP courses in 38 subjects, each culminating in a rigorous exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue—skills that prepare them for college and beyond. Taking AP courses demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought the most rigorous coursework available to them, and research indicates that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to earn a college degree than non-AP students. Each AP teacher’s syllabus is evaluated and approved by faculty from some of the nation’s leading colleges and universities, and AP Exams are developed and scored by college faculty and experienced AP teachers. Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States grant credit, advanced placement, or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores—more than 3,300 institutions worldwide annually receive AP scores. In the last decade, participation in the AP Program has more than doubled, and graduates succeeding on AP Exams have nearly doubled.

Enrolling Students: Equity and Access

AP strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP programs by giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. We encourage the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underserved. The Advanced Placement Program also believes that all students should have access to academically challenging course work before they enroll in AP classes, which can prepare them for AP success. It is only through a commitment to equitable preparation and access that true equity and excellence can be achieved.

Offering AP Courses: The AP Course Audit

Note: The Course Audit requirements for the AP African American Studies course will go into effect when the course launches in 2024-2025.

The required components of AP African American Studies are the Topics in this publication, with their respective Sources, Learning Objective(s), and Essential Knowledge statement(s). AP Exam questions will not assess content that falls outside of these Topics. Beyond this backbone of content required for college credit, schools select their own textbook, readings, and instructional approaches, and develop their own assignments, lesson plans, classroom activities, and interim assessments. While each Topic is required, the sequence of topics is not; schools can teach these topics in the order suggested in this publication, or in whatever order they think best, integrating other content that is required or valued locally. Schools wishing to offer AP courses must participate in the AP Course Audit, a process through which AP teachers’ course materials are reviewed by college faculty. The AP Course Audit was created to provide teachers and administrators with clear guidelines on curricular and resource requirements for AP courses and to help colleges and universities validate courses marked “AP” on students’ transcripts. This process ensures that AP teachers’ courses meet or exceed the curricular and resource expectations that college and secondary school faculty have established for college-level courses.

The AP Course Audit form is submitted by the AP teacher and the school principal (or designated administrator) to confirm awareness and understanding of the curricular and resource requirements. The syllabus or course outline, detailing how course requirements are met, is submitted by the AP teacher for review by college faculty.



How the AP Program Is Developed

The scope of content for an AP course and exam is derived from an analysis of hundreds of syllabi and course offerings from colleges and universities. Using this research and data, a committee of college faculty and expert AP teachers work within the scope of the corresponding college courses (e.g. African American Studies, Africana Studies, African Diaspora Studies, Black Studies) to articulate what students should know and be able to do upon the completion of the AP course. The resulting course framework serves as a blueprint of the content and skills that can appear on an AP Exam.

The AP Development Committees are responsible for developing each AP Exam, ensuring the exam questions are aligned to the course framework. The AP course and exam development process is a multiyear endeavor; all AP Exams undergo extensive review, revision, piloting, and analysis to ensure that questions are accurate, fair, and valid, and that there is an appropriate spread of difficulty across the questions.

Members of the inaugural development committees for new courses also support the development of instructional resources, including video lessons and sample syllabi, as well as teacher professional learning resources.

Committee members are selected to represent a variety of perspectives and institutions (public and private, small and large schools and colleges), and a range of gender, racial/ethnic, and regional groups.

Throughout AP course and exam development, the Advanced Placement® Program gathers feedback from various stakeholders from secondary schools, higher education institutions, and disciplinary organizations. This feedback is carefully considered to ensure that AP courses and exams can provide students with a college-level learning experience and the opportunity to demonstrate their qualifications for advanced placement or college credit.

How AP Exams Are Scored

The exam scoring process, like the course and exam development process, relies on the expertise of both AP teachers and college faculty. While multiple-choice questions are scored by machine, the free-response questions and through-course projects, as applicable, are scored by thousands of college faculty and expert AP teachers. Most are scored at the annual AP Reading,

while a small portion are scored online. All AP Exam Readers are thoroughly trained, and their work is monitored throughout the Reading for fairness and consistency. In each subject, a highly respected college faculty member serves as Chief Faculty Consultant, and with the help of AP Readers in leadership positions, maintains the accuracy of the scoring standards. Scores on the free-response questions and performance assessments are weighted and combined with the results of the computer-scored multiple-choice questions, and this raw score is converted into a composite AP score on a 1–5 scale.

AP Exams are not norm-referenced or graded on a curve. Instead, they are criterion-referenced, which means that every student who meets the criteria for an AP score of 2, 3, 4, or 5 will receive that score, no matter how many students that is. The criteria for the number of points students must earn on the AP Exam to receive scores of 3, 4, or 5—the scores that research consistently validates for credit and placement purposes—include:

- The number of points successful college students earn when their professors administer AP Exam questions to them.
- The number of points researchers have found to be predictive that an AP student will succeed when placed into a subsequent, higher-level college course.
- Achievement-level descriptions formulated by college faculty who review each AP Exam question.

Using and Interpreting AP Scores

The extensive work done by college faculty and AP teachers in the development of the course and the exam and throughout the scoring process ensures that AP Exam scores accurately represent students' achievement in the equivalent college course. Frequent and regular research studies establish the validity of AP scores as follows:

AP Score	Recommendation	College Grade Equivalent
5	Extremely well qualified	A
4	Well qualified	A-, B+, B
3	Qualified	B-, C+, C
2	Possibly qualified	n/a
1	No recommendation	n/a

Friday, April 26, 2024 at 14:51:46 Central Daylight Time

Subject: AP African American Studies Framework & Updates

Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:42:35 AM Central Standard Time

From: Walker, Gregory

To: Stacy Smith (ADE)

CC: Jones, Erin, Gupta, David, Dawson, Amanda

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Good morning, Stacy,

It was great to speak with you this morning. I am attaching the link to AP African American Studies updates. We have released the updated framework and several supporting resources. We have provided a comparison document so that you can track changes from the pilot 2 framework to the new framework that has just been released. Please review and let me know what College Board needs to do to get this course reviewed for consideration for approved courses in Arkansas. I am hopeful that we will be able to get this course in more schools as part of your goals to increase student access. Looking forward to connecting with you on next steps soon.

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-african-american-studies/adopt>

Have a great day!

Greg Walker *Senior Vice President*
State and District Partnerships

The College Board
T 224.935.7849
gwalker@collegeboard.org

Clearing a path for all students to own their future

Friday, April 26, 2024 at 14:51:19 Central Daylight Time

Subject: College Board Feedback Requested AP African American Studies

Date: Friday, January 19, 2024 at 11:07:07 AM Central Standard Time

From: Walker, Gregory

To: Jacob Oliva (ADE), Stacy Smith (ADE)

CC: Gupta, David, Dawson, Amanda

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Secretary Oliva, Stacy Smith,

Good morning. It was a pleasure to speak with you last week regarding AP African American Studies and what you need from College Board to move forward with the process to obtain a course code for the official course.

Below are written confirmations and responses to the questions you wanted answers to.

1. The [Operational Course Framework, Project and Exam Overview](#) is the official framework for the AP African American Studies Course that will launch in the 2024-2025 school year. This is NO LONGER a pilot but the official AP course.
2. Students participating in the official course for AP African American Studies in the 2024 – 2025 school year will take a fully operational AP Exam at the end of that school year, which will be available in the same capacity as other official AP courses. I want to also confirm that students in this second pilot in this current school year can take the AP Exam for African American Studies in spring 2024, and those scores will be available to be sent to colleges and universities for credit consideration.
3. The website for AP African American Studies will be updated on March 1 when the AP Course Audit goes live. The process will be similar to the process used for AP Precalculus that officially launched this academic year, 2023-2024. At that time, the class would also be listed as one of our AP classes. However, if Arkansas requires the College Board to have the name of the class show up on our website prior to March 1, please let me know and I can get our teams to accelerate this timeline.
4. Regarding summer professional learning, the College Board does have three AP Summer Institute sites in Arkansas, which are Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and University of Arkansas, Little Rock. None of the sites currently have AP African American Studies listed, but if your team wanted to request that one or more of these sites host the summer training, we could re-open our process to accept those institutions.
5. Regarding curriculum or text for teachers to adopt and ensuring that training does not violate the executive order or state law, individual consultants build their own training content, and it will look substantially like the training content College Board submitted for ADE review in the fall of this school year. Similar to #4 above, ADE could also explore creating a private APSI (only open to Arkansas teachers) and work with the site to select and train their own consultants. Because you have pilot schools, you have a strong pool of teachers from which to choose who could be

great consultants (we already have AP African American Studies consultant expertise in your state). Regarding textbooks for AP African American Studies, they are optional for use. Two are provided as examples and listed in the audit, but this is local discretion.

6. Regarding AP Credit, the College Board will publish a comprehensive list to our website in mid March, 2024. In Arkansas, the flagship campus of Univ of Arkansas Fayetteville has already agreed to award credit for this course at a score of 3 or higher on the exam. The policy can be found [here](#). Regarding other AP courses that have been operational, you can find AP credit policy information through this link: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies>. Again, AP African American Studies will be added to this list on March 15, 2024.
7. Regarding Course Placement and graduation requirements – We cannot tell you what the right answer is for Arkansas, only Arkansas can determine that. But based on our review, it looks like Arkansas requires 3 credits for Social Studies: 1 US, 1 World, ½ Econ/Personal Finance, ½ Civics. It's probably a hard case to make that AP AfAm satisfies all the state standards for any of these specific courses. Thus, it is probably the best fit for an elective. But this is just our perspective from a cursory review, and we can't make any specific recommendation to the state about it. If it's helpful on this or any other topic, we are happy to connect our academic experts to the appropriate staff on your team to answer any further questions they might have.

Thanks again for the opportunity to connect last week. If I missed any questions that you posed, please let me know and if there is additional follow-up you need from us based on our responses, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you and learning about the next steps.

Thank you,

*Greg Walker Senior Vice President
State and District Partnerships*

The College Board
T 224.935.7849
walker@collegeboard.org

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Friday, April 26, 2024 at 14:50:59 Central Daylight Time

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow Up
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 8:15:41 AM Central Daylight Time
From: Walker, Gregory
To: Stacy Smith (ADE)
CC: Dawson, Amanda, Gupta, David
Attachments: image001.png

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I have our team working on this and we will get this going for you. We will circle back in a couple of days with a few options for you.

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From: Stacy Smith (ADE) <Stacy.Smith@ade.arkansas.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:53 PM
To: Walker, Gregory <gwalker@collegeboard.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow Up

Dr. Pride's team this past month has been looking at possible trainings for the APSI this summer. They were unable to secure someone. If we can connect to discuss possible support- that would be appreciated.

Thank you!

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From: Walker, Gregory <gwalker@collegeboard.org>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 4:54:10 PM
To: Stacy Smith (ADE) <Stacy.Smith@ade.arkansas.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow Up

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Thank you, Stacy. Very exciting for the students in Arkansas. If there is anything you need please let me know.

GW

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From: Stacy Smith (ADE) <Stacy.Smith@ade.arkansas.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 5:48:52 PM
To: Walker, Gregory <gwalker@collegeboard.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow Up

Greg,

You have provided everything that was asked. We did release the new course catalog today and AP African American Studies is listed. It has the same code as previously listed and will be worth weighted credit. The following is the description in the catalog.

AP African American Studies (574700: 1 credit)

Prerequisite Course Codes: None

Grade Range: 9 - 12

Examines the diversity of African American experiences through direct encounters with rich and varied sources. Explore key topics that extend from early African kingdoms to the ongoing challenges and achievements of the contemporary moment.

Credit Fulfills: Career-Focused Elective

Stacy Smith, Ed. S.
Deputy Commissioner

Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
Office: 501-683-4783
Cell: 501-413-2907

NOTE EMAIL CHANGE: Stacy.Smith@ade.Arkansas.gov

From: "Walker, Gregory" <gwalker@collegeboard.org>
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 2:58 PM
To: "Stacy Smith (ADE)" <Stacy.Smith@ade.arkansas.gov>
Subject: Follow Up

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Good afternoon, Stacy,

I wanted to check in to see how things are going for you. Please let me know if there is anything you need from College Board.

Thanks,

*Greg Walker Senior Vice President
State and District Partnerships*

The College Board
T 224.935.7849
gwalker@collegeboard.org

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