

5.21 -- Grade Point Average

Ending with the graduating class of 2019-2020, all courses counted toward the required credits of the diploma will be included in the Grade Point Average (GPA) calculation.

Van Buren School District utilizes two ranking methods for GPA as defined below:

- Rank One is the calculation of GPA mandated by the Arkansas Department of Education and college reporting. This method uses a 4.0 credit for all courses except those Advanced Placement (AP) courses weighted on the 5.0 scale. Local credits are not included in the Rank One GPA.
- Rank Two is the calculation of GPA for local purposes only. This method uses a weighted rank of 5 for AP, Concurrent Credit and Engineering* courses and 4.5 for Pre-AP courses to determine class rank. Local credits are included in the Rank Two GPA.

Courses not counting for credit will not be counted in the GPA.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2020-2021 GPA will be calculated by methods mandated by the Arkansas Department of Education and college reporting. This method uses a 4.0 credit for all courses except those Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, or honors or concurrent credit college courses weighted on the 5.0 scale. Students in grades 7-12 who take advanced placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, or honors or concurrent credit college courses approved for weighted credit by the Arkansas Department of Education shall be graded according to the following schedule.

A = 100 – 90

B = 89 – 80

C = 79 – 70

D = 69-60

F = 59 and below

For the purpose of determining grade point averages, the numeric value of each letter grade shall be

A = 5 points

B = 4 points

C = 3 points

D = 2 point

F = 0 points

For a student to be eligible to receive weighted credit for an AP, or IB course, the student's course must have been taught by an Arkansas licensed teacher who has received the

appropriate training required by Arkansas statute and ADE Rule or, for an AP teacher, is in the process of completing an Additional Training Plan.

Additionally, for students taking AP or International Baccalaureate courses to receive weighted credit they must take the applicable AP or IB examination after completing the entire course . Credit shall be given for each grading period during the course of the year, but shall be retroactively removed from a student's grade for any course in which the student fails to take the applicable AP exam. Students who do not take the AP exam shall receive the same numeric value for the grade he/she receives in the course as if it were a non-AP course.

"Honors Courses" are those courses 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.

Students who transfer into the district will be given weighted credit for the Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, honors courses approved by the Arkansas Department of Education, and concurrent college courses taken for weighted credit at his/her previous school(s) according to the preceding scale.

Credit Recovery

Credit Recovery is the repeating of a credit that was failed or for which a student received NC (no credit). Students must get principal approval for credit recovery. Credit recovery is pass/fail and is not included in the GPA.

*Students must complete the entire Engineering course of study to receive weighted credit.

Legal References: Arkansas Department of Education Rules and Regulations Governing
Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools
ADE Rules for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate
Diploma Incentive Program
A.C.A. § 6-15-902(c)

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