



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2008 - 118

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Jim McBride, Ed.D.

**DATE:** August 22, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Grade Weighting Policy Recommendation/Hathaway GPA Requirements

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### PLEASE READ AND RESPOND AS NECESSARY

Parents and educators across the state have expressed concerns that the grade point requirements of the Hathaway Scholarship Program will diminish the numbers of students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and dual enrollment courses. In an effort to actually encourage enrollment in these more challenging courses, WDE encourages districts to explore fair and equitable solutions to any “disincentive” that may exist. I respectfully ask that you consider a policy of grade weighting for these courses.

The intent of the Hathaway Scholarship is to encourage and provide an opportunity for all Wyoming students to pursue a post secondary education. Additionally, the Success Curriculum as defined by statute is intended to better prepare students through rigorous classes. AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment Classes help provide the rigor defined by the Success Curriculum.

The attached draft policy recommendations are voluntary and are intended to address districts’ concerns. Please review the attachment and provide any comments to Tom Collins at [tcolli@educ.state.wy.us](mailto:tcolli@educ.state.wy.us) by September 19, 2008.

JM:TC:rw

Attachment: Grade Weighting Policy Recommendation/Hathaway GPA Requirements

**WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
POLICY RECOMMENDATION PROPOSAL GOVERNING  
UNIFORM GRADE WEIGHTING FOR THE PURPOSE OF HATHAWAY GPA  
REQUIREMENTS**

August 22, 2008

- A. Approval of weighted Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and/or weighted dual enrollment credit college courses in order to meet Hathaway GPA requirements.**
- I. A local school district may provide AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment courses to be designated as weighted.
  - II. 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 AP and IB courses.
  - III. Recommendation from WDE for weighted AP, IB courses and/or weighted dual enrollment college courses is as follows:
    1. The local school board takes official action to develop a district policy to address AP, IB and dual enrollment courses.
    2. In order to receive weighted credit for a dual enrollment course, students must complete the course for a grade.
    3. In order to receive weighted credit for an AP and IB courses, students must complete the course and take the AP and or IB exam.
    4. Students receiving a C/2.0 or higher in an AP, IB or dual enrollment course may receive an additional .5 on the course grade not to exceed a 4.0 total.

For example, a student takes an AP or IB class, completes the AP or IB Exam and earns a letter grade of B/3.0. The point value awarded in the transcript would include a 0.5 additional weight, equaling 3.5 for calculating the student's GPA.