



eStem Public Charter School  
200 River Market Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Good Evening, eHS Families,

On Friday afternoon, August 11th, at 4:02 p.m., the Arkansas Department of Education decided that AP African American Studies would not be recognized for state credit this school year (2023-2024). Moreover, our school only received information about this dynamic change through a direct phone conversation between two representatives from the Department of Education and the High School Director (Mr. Guest).

The representatives from the Arkansas Department of Education communicated the following information during the phone conversation:

- AP African American Studies will not be recognized as a state-approved course.
- If AP African American Studies is offered, it will only be recognized as a local school credit and an elective course.
- Because the course is a local credit / elective, the course will not be weighted on the usual AP 5.0 GPA scale.
- The state of Arkansas will not pay the cost of the AP African American Studies Exam.

Despite this news, eStem High School will take the following actions:

- We will continue to offer AP African American Studies as a local elective credit.
- For the students/families who elect to remain in the course, eHS will cover the cost of the AP African American Studies Exams.
- All students who pass the course and take the AP African American Studies Exam will be awarded eStem High School's first Medal of Historical Pursuit and Valor (Medallia Historicae Studii Virtutis). The Medal of Historical Pursuit and Valor may be worn as part of the student's graduation regalia.

Although the full impact of our state's intentions is vague, our intentions are clear: **We will continue to teach AP African American Studies at eHS.**

Thank you for your support. For further questions or additional information, please contact Dr. Cherie Labat at [cherie.labat@estemschools.org](mailto:cherie.labat@estemschools.org) or Jessi Forster at [jessi.forster@estemschools.org](mailto:jessi.forster@estemschools.org).