

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2007
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 30, 2007
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 507

Introduced by Senator Torlakson

February 22, 2007

An act to add *and repeal* Chapter 6.95 (commencing with Section 52117) to 52115) of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to science instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 507, as amended, Torlakson. Schools: science instruction: grant program.

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 1 to 6, inclusive, to include instruction, beginning in grade 1 and continuing through grade 6, in specified areas of study, including, but not limited to, science, including the biological and physical aspects, with emphasis on the processes of experimental inquiry and on the place of humans in ecological systems. The course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, also is required to include courses in science. Various programs are established to provide grants for enhanced educational opportunities for pupils.

This bill would establish the Science Instruction Augmentation Grant Program, to be administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The program would require the Superintendent to award ~~25~~ 40 grants from the General Fund, not to exceed \$2,000,000 in total to local educational agencies that maintain kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and to award ~~300~~ 600 grants, not to exceed \$3,000,000 in

total to local educational agencies that maintain grades 7 to 12, inclusive, for specified science education purposes and equipment. The Superintendent would be required to award grants pursuant to the program first to schools with a high percentage of ~~students~~ *pupils* living in poverty, as described, and that meet certain other requirements. *Beginning January 1, 2010, local educational agencies would be required to submit a report to the Superintendent with specified information, and beginning January 30, 2010, the Superintendent would be required to report certain information to the Legislature each year.* The bill would make the implementation of its provisions contingent upon the appropriation of funds for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or other statute.

This bill would make these provisions inoperative on July 1, 2013, and would repeal them as of January 1, 2014.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Due to the emphasis on math and reading in the curricula of
- 4 kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and the limited time in
- 5 the schoolday, science is taught in varying degrees in each
- 6 classroom in which those grades are taught.
- 7 (b) Academics agree that it is important to spark the interest of
- 8 pupils in science at an early age in order to develop curiosity and
- 9 critical thinking skills.
- 10 (c) The majority of the multisubject credentialed teachers of
- 11 kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, do not have a strong
- 12 academic background in science, are therefore less comfortable
- 13 with the material, and are less likely to place an emphasis on
- 14 science.
- 15 (d) Former astronaut Sally K. Ride formed the Sally Ride
- 16 Science Club to address the science, technology, engineering, and
- 17 mathematics (STEM) gender gap, the lack of women in STEM
- 18 professions.
- 19 (e) The National Center for Education Statistics reported in its
- 20 “Trends in Educational Equity of Girls & Women” in 2000 that

1 the percentages of girls interested in STEM careers decreases from
2 66 percent in grade 4 to 48 percent in grade 12.

3 (f) Studies show that improved teacher knowledge and training
4 results in increased pupil learning and success.

5 SEC. 2. Chapter 6.95 (commencing with Section ~~52117~~ 52115
6 is added to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code,
7 to read:

8
9 CHAPTER 6.95. SCIENCE INSTRUCTION AUGMENTATION GRANT
10 PROGRAM

11
12 52115. *For purposes of this chapter, “local educational*
13 *agency” means a school district, county office of education, or*
14 *charter school.*

15 ~~52117.~~

16 52116. (a) The Science Instruction Augmentation Grant
17 Program is hereby established and shall be administered by the
18 Superintendent.

19 (b) The program shall provide grants to public school districts
20 that maintain kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, for
21 the purposes of providing greater access to science education and
22 promoting knowledge, curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, and
23 interest in all aspects of science.

24 (c) Funds apportioned pursuant to this ~~article~~ *chapter* shall
25 supplement and not supplant existing expenditures by the local
26 educational agencies receiving grants.

27 (d) To be eligible to receive a grant under this ~~article~~ *chapter*,
28 a representative of the applicant local educational agency shall
29 certify that an annual program audit will be conducted and that
30 adequate, accurate records will be maintained. In addition, each
31 applicant shall provide the Superintendent with the assurance that
32 grant funds received pursuant to this ~~article~~ *chapter* will be
33 expended only for the purposes for which they are granted. The
34 Superintendent shall require grant recipients to submit annual
35 budget reports, and the Superintendent may withhold funds in
36 subsequent years if grant funds are expended for purposes other
37 than as awarded.

38 (e) The implementation of this ~~article~~ *chapter* is contingent upon
39 the appropriation of funds for its purposes in the annual Budget
40 Act or other statute.

1 ~~52118.~~

2 ~~52117.~~ (a) The Superintendent shall award ~~25~~ *40* grants from
3 the General Fund, not to exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000)
4 in total, to various local education agencies that maintain
5 kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive, for the purposes
6 of hiring traveling science teachers and purchasing science
7 equipment that the teacher would require to provide science
8 education.

9 (b) For purposes of this section:

10 (1) “Traveling science teacher” means a teacher that travels
11 from classroom to classroom, school to school, district to district,
12 or any combination thereof, to provide science activities and
13 instruction to elementary school students, and is dedicated solely
14 to the teaching of science to elementary school pupils. A traveling
15 science teacher may hold a single-subject preliminary or
16 professional clear credential in science; a multiple-subject
17 preliminary or professional clear credential with an academic or
18 industrial background in science; or a multiple-subject preliminary
19 or professional clear credential. A traveling science teacher holding
20 a preliminary credential must be a participant in a certification
21 program toward a professional clear credential and must receive
22 that credential no more than three years after the date he or she
23 enters a classroom to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind
24 Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.).

25 (2) “Science equipment” means any equipment appropriate to
26 teaching the science content standards and particularly the
27 experimentation and investigation standards, including, but not
28 limited to, measuring devices, balances, scales, containers,
29 microscopes, and magnifiers for use in science education
30 instruction. Funds may not be used to purchase textbooks.

31 (c) The Superintendent shall award grants based upon the
32 following criteria:

33 (1) First, to local educational agencies with schools that have a
34 high percentage of students living in poverty, as determined by
35 the percentage of pupils eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

36 (2) Second, to all other local educational agencies that apply
37 for funds.

38 (d) The Superintendent shall require the recipient local
39 educational agency to provide a 50 percent match of its own funds
40 to be used for purposes of this section, which may come from any

1 public or private source, based on the amount of funds apportioned
2 and the financial means of the local educational agency.

3 (e) Funds apportioned pursuant to this section shall be used for
4 the purposes set forth in subdivision (a).

5 (f) Local educational agencies that are selected to receive grants
6 pursuant to this section are eligible to continue to receive grant
7 awards on an ongoing basis in subsequent fiscal years to the extent
8 that the agency continues to demonstrate the need for the funds
9 awarded according to this section.

10 ~~52119.~~

11 ~~52118.~~ (a) The Superintendent shall award ~~300~~ 600 grants
12 from the General Fund, not to exceed three million dollars
13 (\$3,000,000) in total, to local educational agencies that maintain
14 grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to purchase science laboratory equipment
15 for science laboratory instruction.

16 (b) For purposes of this section, “science laboratory equipment”
17 means equipment appropriate to teaching the science content
18 standards, including, but not limited to, digital measurement
19 devices, probeware, and laboratory glassware. Funds may not be
20 used to purchase textbooks.

21 (c) The Superintendent shall award grants based upon the
22 following criteria:

23 (1) First, to local educational agencies with schools that have a
24 high percentage of ~~students~~ *pupils* living in poverty, as determined
25 by the percentage of pupils eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

26 (2) Second, to all other local educational agencies that apply
27 for funds.

28 (d) The Superintendent shall require the recipient local
29 educational agency to provide a 50 percent match of its own funds
30 to be used for purposes of this section, which may come from any
31 public or private source, based on the amount of funds apportioned
32 and the financial means of the local educational agency.

33 (e) Funds apportioned pursuant to this section shall be used for
34 the purposes set forth in subdivision (a).

35 (f) Local educational agencies that are selected to receive grants
36 pursuant to this section are eligible to continue to receive grant
37 awards on an ongoing basis in subsequent fiscal years to the extent
38 that they continue to demonstrate the need for the funds awarded
39 according to this section.

1 ~~(g) Local educational agencies that are selected to receive grants~~
2 ~~pursuant to this section shall submit an annual report of the sources~~
3 ~~and amount of matching funds provided and the equipment~~
4 ~~purchased.~~

5 52119. (a) *On January 1, 2010, and every year thereafter,*
6 *local educational agencies that are selected to receive grants*
7 *pursuant to this chapter shall submit a report to the Superintendent*
8 *on or before January 1 with the following information:*

9 (1) *Sources and amounts of local matching funds received.*

10 (2) *Equipment purchased.*

11 (3) *The number of pupils and classrooms served.*

12 (b) *On January 30, 2010, and every year thereafter, the*
13 *Superintendent shall report to the Legislature on or before January*
14 *30 on all of the following:*

15 (1) *The local educational agencies served pursuant to this*
16 *chapter.*

17 (2) *The services provided pursuant to this chapter.*

18 (3) *The educational technology needs in California schools.*

19 (4) *The extent to which current state-funded support is meeting*
20 *the needs set forth in this chapter.*

21 (5) *Recommendations on actions that could be taken to better*
22 *meet current and emerging needs for support in the use of science*
23 *instruction and laboratory equipment.*

24 52120. *This chapter shall become inoperative on July 1, 2013,*
25 *and, as of January 1, 2014, is repealed, unless a later enacted*
26 *statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2014,*
27 *deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and*
28 *is repealed.*