

Introduced by Senator Wyland

February 22, 2013

An act to amend Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to high school graduation requirements.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 540, as introduced, Wyland. High school graduation requirements. Existing law requires a pupil to complete specified courses while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to this provision.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as
- 2 amended by Section 3 of Chapter 621 of the Statutes of 2011, is
- 3 amended to read:
- 4 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
- 5 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
- 6 graduation from high school:
- 7 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
- 8 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
- 9 otherwise specified:
- 10 (A) Three courses in English.
- 11 (B) Two courses in mathematics.
- 12 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
- 13 sciences.

1 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
2 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
3 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
4 one-semester course in economics.

5 (E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,
6 or, commencing with the 2012–13 school year, career technical
7 education.

8 (i) For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
9 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
10 deemed a course in foreign language.

11 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career
12 technical education” means a course in a district-operated career
13 technical education program that is aligned to the career technical
14 model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state
15 board, including courses through a regional occupational center
16 or program operated by a county superintendent of schools or
17 pursuant to a joint powers agreement.

18 (iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school
19 district that currently does not offer career technical education
20 courses to start new career technical education programs for
21 purposes of this section.

22 (iv) If a school district or county office of education elects to
23 allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement
24 imposed by this subparagraph, the governing board of the school
25 district or county office of education, ~~prior to~~ *before* offering that
26 alternative to pupils, shall notify parents, teachers, pupils, and the
27 public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of
28 all of the following:

29 (I) The intent to offer career technical education courses to fulfill
30 the graduation requirement specified in this subparagraph.

31 (II) The impact that offering career technical education courses,
32 pursuant to this subparagraph, will have on the availability of
33 courses that meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the
34 California State University and the University of California, and
35 whether the career technical education courses to be offered
36 pursuant to this subparagraph are approved to satisfy those
37 eligibility requirements. If a school district elects to allow a career
38 technical education course to satisfy the requirement imposed by
39 this subparagraph, the school district shall comply with subdivision
40 (m) of Section 48980.

1 (III) The distinction, if any, between the high school graduation
2 requirements of the school district or county office of education,
3 and the eligibility requirements for admission to the California
4 State University and the University of California.

5 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been
6 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

7 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
8 board of the school district.

9 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
10 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
11 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may
12 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
13 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
14 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
15 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
16 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
17 postsecondary *educational* institution. Requirements for graduation
18 and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed
19 course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the
20 public.

21 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district shall exempt
22 a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements
23 adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition
24 to the statewide coursework requirements specified in this section
25 if the pupil, while ~~he or she~~ *the pupil* is in grade 11 or 12, transfers
26 into the district from another school district or between high
27 schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding that
28 the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements
29 in time to graduate from high school while ~~he or she~~ *the pupil*
30 remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A
31 school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an
32 exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the
33 person holding the right to make educational decisions for the
34 pupil, if any of the requirements that are waived will affect the
35 pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational
36 institution and shall provide information about transfer
37 opportunities available through the California Community
38 Colleges.

39 (d) On or before July 1, 2017, the department shall submit a
40 comprehensive report to the appropriate policy committees of the

1 Legislature on the addition of career technical education courses
2 to satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of
3 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), including, but not limited to, the
4 following information:

5 (1) A comparison of the pupil enrollment in career technical
6 education courses, foreign language courses, and visual and
7 performing arts courses for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,
8 inclusive, to the pupil enrollment in career technical education
9 courses, foreign language courses, and visual and performing arts
10 courses for the 2012–13 to 2016–17 school years, inclusive.

11 (2) The reasons, reported by school districts, that pupils give
12 for choosing to enroll in a career technical education course to
13 satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph
14 (1) of subdivision (a).

15 (3) The type and number of career technical education courses
16 that were conducted for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,
17 inclusive, compared to the type and number of career technical
18 education courses that were conducted for the 2012–13 to 2016–17
19 school years, inclusive.

20 (4) The number of career technical education courses that
21 satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the
22 University of California or the California State University.

23 (5) The extent to which the career technical education courses
24 chosen by pupils are aligned with the California Career Technical
25 Education Standards, and prepare pupils for employment, advanced
26 training, and postsecondary education.

27 (6) The number of career technical education courses that also
28 satisfy the visual and performing arts requirement, and the number
29 of career technical education courses that also satisfy the foreign
30 language requirement.

31 (7) Annual pupil dropout and graduation rates for the 2011–12
32 to 2014–15 school years, inclusive.

33 (e) For purposes of completing the report described in
34 subdivision (d), the Superintendent may use existing state resources
35 and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not available or
36 sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept grants,
37 and receive donations and other financial support from public or
38 private sources for purposes of this section.

39 (f) For purposes of completing the report described in
40 subdivision (d), the Superintendent may accept support, including,

1 but not limited to, financial and technical support, from high school
2 reform advocates, teachers, chamber organizations, industry
3 representatives, research centers, parents, and pupils.

4 (g) This section shall become inoperative on the earlier of the
5 following two dates:

6 (1) On July 1, immediately following the first fiscal year after
7 the enactment of the act that adds this paragraph in which the
8 number of career technical education courses that, as determined
9 by the department, satisfy the foreign language requirement for
10 admission to the California State University and the University of
11 California is at least twice the number of career technical education
12 courses that meet these admission requirements as of January 1,
13 2012. This section shall be repealed on the following January 1,
14 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before
15 that date, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes
16 inoperative and is repealed. It is the intent of the Legislature that
17 new career technical education courses that satisfy the foreign
18 language requirement for admission to the California State
19 University and the University of California focus on world
20 languages aligned with career preparation, emphasizing real-world
21 application and technical content in related career and technical
22 education courses.

23 (2) On July 1, 2017, and, as of January 1, 2018, is repealed,
24 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before
25 January 1, 2018, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes
26 inoperative and is repealed.