

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 16, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 1892

Introduced by Senator Alarcon

February 24, 2000

An act ~~to amend, repeal, and add Section 51225.3 of the Education Code,~~ relating to courses of study, *and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1892, as amended, Alarcon. Courses of study: ~~graduation requirements.~~

Existing law establishes the Digital High School Education Technology Grant Program to provide all high school pupils with basic computer skills and improve pupil achievement in all academic subjects.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to conduct a needs assessment survey of all school districts and county offices of education to determine the availability and accessibility of courses and coursework in career technology and computer literacy.

The bill would require the department to provide a comprehensive plan for integrating technical skills training into the public education core curriculum for computer literacy and employment related purposes.

The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to appoint an advisory committee to assist the department in the development of the comprehensive plan.

The bill would require the State Department of Education to submit the results of the needs assessment survey and its

comprehensive plan to the Governor and the policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature on or before January 1, 2002.

The bill would appropriate \$300,000 to the State Department of Education for the purposes of the act. Funds appropriated by the bill would be applied toward the minimum funding requirements for school districts and community college districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

~~Existing law requires pupils to complete a certain number of courses in English, mathematics, science, social studies, visual or performing arts or foreign language, and physical education while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to receive a high school graduation diploma.~~

~~This bill would also require pupils, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to complete 2 courses in high technology vocational training skills, which may include, for example, instruction and training in computers and electronics or in mechanical skills, to receive a high school graduation diploma. Because the addition of these required courses would mandate a higher level of service by school districts, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.~~

~~The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.~~

~~This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.~~

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

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

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and
2 declares the following:



1 (a) The foundational principle of the Education Code
2 is that all pupils have access to equitable educational
3 opportunities and resources.

4 (b) Evidence supports the undeniable conclusion that
5 pupils who reside in affluent suburban communities have
6 access to more educational resources in both their schools
7 and neighborhoods than pupils from poorer communities
8 in urban or rural areas.

9 (c) The state's future is dependent upon minimizing,
10 if not entirely alleviating, the inequities in our public
11 schools so that all children will have more equitable
12 opportunities to learn skills needed for entry into the
13 workforce, to pursue postsecondary educational goals,
14 and to contribute to the state's social cohesion.

15 (d) Current law specifies the courses a pupil must take
16 in order to graduate from high school. However, too
17 many pupils are graduating without the necessary
18 foundation to succeed in the workplace or in
19 postsecondary education.

20 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that all of the
21 following occur:

22 (a) By specifying the types of coursework that pupils
23 must complete in order to graduate, pupils will have
24 world class skills and the state's workforce will be
25 competitive in the global economy.

26 ~~(b) The changes in graduation requirements enacted
27 by this act are scheduled to take effect for pupils entering
28 grade 9 in the 2004-05 school year.~~

29 ~~(c) The timeframe of this act shall ensure that high
30 schools and their respective feeder elementary schools
31 will have sufficient time in which to make changes in
32 their courses of study so that pupils will be prepared to
33 meet the academic and technical skills challenges of the
34 high school curriculum.~~

35 ~~(d)~~

36 (b) In order to increase the rigor of the coursework
37 and to ensure that pupils are prepared to meet the
38 demands of the 21st century, the courses required for
39 high school graduation must be aligned with standards
40 that are adopted by the State Board of Education.



1 (c) A master plan is established and implemented to
2 help ensure and facilitate the integration of high
3 technology learning into the core curriculum of public
4 schools.

5 ~~SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is~~
6 ~~amended to read:~~

7 ~~51225.3. (a) Commencing with the 1988-89 school~~
8 ~~year, no pupil shall receive a diploma of graduation from~~
9 ~~high school who, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not~~
10 ~~completed all of the following:~~

11 ~~(1) At least the following numbers of courses in the~~
12 ~~subjects specified, each course having a duration of one~~
13 ~~year, unless otherwise specified.~~

14 ~~(A) Three courses in English.~~

15 ~~(B) Two courses in mathematics.~~

16 ~~(C) Two courses in science, including biological and~~
17 ~~physical sciences.~~

18 ~~(D) Three courses in social studies, including United~~
19 ~~States history and geography; world history, culture, and~~
20 ~~geography; a one-semester course in American~~
21 ~~government and civics, and a one-semester course in~~
22 ~~economics.~~

23 ~~(E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign~~
24 ~~language. For the purposes of satisfying the requirement~~
25 ~~specified in this subparagraph, a course in American Sign~~
26 ~~Language shall be deemed a course in foreign language.~~

27 ~~(F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil~~
28 ~~has been exempted pursuant to the provisions of this~~
29 ~~code.~~

30 ~~(2) Such other coursework as the governing board of~~
31 ~~the school district may by rule specify.~~

32 ~~(b) The governing board, with the active involvement~~
33 ~~of parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall~~
34 ~~adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the~~
35 ~~prescribed course of study which may include practical~~
36 ~~demonstration of skills and competencies, supervised~~
37 ~~work experience or other outside school experience,~~
38 ~~vocational education classes offered in high schools,~~
39 ~~courses offered by regional occupational centers or~~
40 ~~programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study,~~



1 and credit earned at a postsecondary institution.
2 Requirements for graduation and specified alternative
3 modes for completing the prescribed course of study shall
4 be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

5 (e) This section shall become inoperative on July 1,
6 2004, and, as of January 1, 2005, is repealed, unless a later
7 enacted statute that is enacted before January 1, 2005,
8 deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes
9 inoperative and is repealed.

10 SEC. 4. Section 51225.3 is added to the Education
11 Code, to read:

12 51225.3. (a) Commencing with the 2004-05 school
13 year, no pupil shall receive a diploma of graduation from
14 high school who, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not
15 completed all of the following:

16 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the
17 subjects specified, each course having a duration of one
18 year, unless otherwise specified:

19 (A) Three courses in English.

20 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

21 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and
22 physical sciences.

23 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United
24 States history and geography; world history, culture, and
25 geography; a one-semester course in American
26 government and civics, and a one-semester course in
27 economies.

28 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign
29 language. For the purposes of satisfying the requirement
30 specified in this subparagraph, a course in American Sign
31 Language shall be deemed a course in foreign language.

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

35 (G) Two courses in high technology vocational
36 training skills, which may include, for example,
37 instruction and training in computers and electronics, or
38 in mechanical skills.

39 (2) Such other coursework as the governing board of
40 the school district may by rule specify.



1 (b) ~~The governing board, with the active involvement~~
2 ~~of parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall~~
3 ~~adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the~~
4 ~~prescribed course of study which may include practical~~
5 ~~demonstration of skills and competencies, supervised~~
6 ~~work experience or other outside school experience,~~
7 ~~vocational education classes offered in high schools,~~
8 ~~courses offered by regional occupational centers or~~
9 ~~programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study,~~
10 ~~and credit earned at a postsecondary institution.~~
11 ~~Requirements for graduation and specified alternative~~
12 ~~modes for completing the prescribed course of study shall~~
13 ~~be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.~~

14 (c) ~~This section shall become operative on July 1, 2004.~~

15 ~~SEC. 5. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the~~
16 ~~Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates~~
17 ~~determines that this act contains costs mandated by the~~
18 ~~state, reimbursement to local agencies and school~~
19 ~~districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7~~
20 ~~(commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title~~
21 ~~2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the~~
22 ~~claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million~~
23 ~~dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from~~
24 ~~the State Mandates Claims Fund.~~

25 *SEC. 3. (a) The State Department of Education shall*
26 *conduct a needs assessment survey of all school districts*
27 *and county offices of education to determine the*
28 *availability and accessibility of courses and coursework in*
29 *career technology and computer literacy. The needs*
30 *assessment survey shall include all of the following:*

31 *(1) The types of courses and coursework in career*
32 *technology and computer literacy currently being*
33 *offered by school districts and county offices of education.*

34 *(2) The number of pupils enrolled in career*
35 *technology and computer literacy courses.*

36 *(3) The capability and capacity for expansion of*
37 *courses in career technology and computer literacy*
38 *currently offered by school districts and county offices of*
39 *education.*



1 (4) A determination as to how career technology and
2 computer literacy courses support and integrate with the
3 State Board of Education's standards and pupil
4 achievement.

5 (5) The connection between career technology and
6 computer literacy, and local industry needs and
7 employment.

8 (6) The barriers that schools face in offering career
9 technology and computer literacy courses, including
10 curriculum needs, lack of equipment, teacher training
11 needs, and space availability.

12 (b) The State Department of Education may contract
13 for the needs assessment survey if department personnel
14 are unable to carry it out.

15 (c) In conjunction with the needs assessment survey,
16 the State Department of Education, with the assistance
17 of the advisory committee appointed pursuant to
18 subdivision (d), shall provide a comprehensive plan for
19 integrating technical skills training into the public
20 education core curriculum for computer literacy and
21 employment related purposes. The comprehensive plan
22 shall include all of the following:

23 (1) The integration of technology into the core
24 curriculum of public schools that serve pupils in
25 kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

26 (2) A process to assess the technological skills of all
27 public school pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12,
28 inclusive.

29 (3) A method for ensuring that the specific technical
30 skills needs of all pupils are met.

31 (d) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall
32 appoint an advisory committee composed of individuals
33 representing a broad range of interested parties to assist
34 the State Department of Education in the development
35 of the comprehensive plan set forth in subdivision (c).

36 (e) The State Department of Education shall submit
37 the results of the needs assessment survey and its
38 comprehensive plan for integrating technical skills
39 training into the public education core curriculum to the



1 *Governor and the policy and fiscal committees of the*
2 *Legislature on or before January 1, 2002.*

3 *SEC. 4. The sum of three hundred thousand dollars*
4 *(\$300,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund*
5 *to the State Department of Education for the purposes of*
6 *complying with all of the requirements contained in*
7 *Section 3 of this act.*

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