

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 717

Introduced by Assembly Member Wiggins

February 22, 2001

An act to add Chapter 8.8 (commencing with Section 52290) to Part 28 of the Education Code, relating to education technology.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 717, as introduced, Wiggins. Information Technology Career Academy Grant Initiative.

Existing law, the Digital High School Education Technology Grant Act of 1997, provides high school pupils with basic computer skills including, but not limited to, Internet search and retrieval tools, so as to, among other things, improve pupil achievement in all academic subjects.

This bill would establish the California Information Technology Career Academy Grant Initiative to establish a partnership with the National Academy Foundation to provide grants to create 100 information technology career academies in public high schools.

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) California is currently experiencing a growing workforce
- 4 gap due largely in part to the lack of workers equipped with the
- 5 necessary skills to meet the demands of the state's high-tech

1 industries. While the shortage has mainly affected the high-tech
2 cluster regions of the state, the lack of skilled workers has hindered
3 other regions of the state trying to attract high-tech industries to
4 bolster their local economies.

5 (b) California’s high school population is the most promising
6 pipeline to meet the workforce needs of the technology-driven
7 economy. Unfortunately, high school achievement is low,
8 especially in math and science which are the most important skills
9 needed in the high-tech industry. In fact, pupil awareness of
10 high-tech careers is lower than most other industry sectors.

11 (c) Due to the lack of a skilled high-tech workforce, new
12 educational approaches will be required to support young people
13 to cross and eliminate the digital divide and acquire the skills that
14 will enable them to succeed in the 21st century economy.

15 (d) Career oriented academies in our high schools have proven
16 to be a highly effective approach to raising academic achievement
17 and job preparedness for all pupils. By providing instruction that
18 combines academic and occupational rigor through the integration
19 of career mentoring and school- and work-based learning to the
20 formal academic curriculum, pupils are better prepared for
21 high-skilled careers or post-secondary education, including
22 four-year colleges and universities.

23 (e) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to increase the
24 availability of information technology career academies in high
25 schools throughout the state to improve academic achievement
26 and supply California’s high-tech industry with a skilled
27 workforce.

28 SEC. 2. Chapter 8.8 (commencing with Section 52290) is
29 added to Part 28 of the Education Code to read:

30

31 CHAPTER 8.8. THE CALIFORNIA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
32 CAREER ACADEMY GRANT INITIATIVE

33

34 52290. (a) The state shall establish a partnership with the
35 National Academy Foundation to create 100 Information
36 Technology Career Academies in public high schools throughout
37 the state starting in the 2001–02 school year.

38 (b) Under the partnership between the state and the National
39 Academy Foundation, the state will allocate funds as specified in



1 Section 52291, if the National Academy Foundation provides all
2 of the following:

3 (1) An Information Technology Career Academy model that is
4 based on the nationally-validated model developed by the
5 National Academy Foundation and supported by industry leaders.

6 (2) Teaching methods, tools, and preparation programs that
7 support in-services and preservice training around academy
8 tenets.

9 (3) Program design and rigorous industry adopted curriculum
10 that are reviewed and revised by the National Academy
11 Foundation periodically to ensure relevance and current practices.

12 (4) Technical assistance for academy implementation and
13 opportunities to share best practices, curriculum training for
14 teachers, mentoring support for intern sponsors and other industry
15 participants.

16 (5) College partnerships by developing articulation
17 agreements between secondary schools and two- and four-year
18 colleges in California.

19 (6) In-kind support including, but not limited to, transportation
20 and lodging for designated teachers to attend the Annual Institute
21 for Staff Development and assistance to schools in accessing
22 funding from public and private sources.

23 52291. (a) Pursuant to funds appropriated in the Budget Act,
24 or other enactment, the Office of the Secretary for Education shall
25 award up to 100 grants for the 2001–02 fiscal year, and each year
26 thereafter, provided that the grant recipients meet or exceed the
27 criteria specified under Section 52292, for purposes of
28 establishing and maintaining 100 Information Technology Career
29 Academies in public high schools throughout the state.

30 (b) The grants shall be calculated under the following method:

31 (1) Grantees may receive eight hundred dollars (\$800) per each
32 pupil enrolled during the first year of the academy’s operation,
33 with no more than fifty-two thousand eight hundred dollars
34 (\$52,800) granted to any one academy for the initial year.

35 (2) Grantees may receive five hundred dollars (\$500) per each
36 pupil enrolled during the second year of the academy’s operation,
37 with no more than sixty-six thousand dollars (\$66,000) granted to
38 any one academy for the second year of operation.

39 (3) Grantees may receive four hundred dollars (\$400) per each
40 pupil enrolled during the third year, and each year thereafter, of the



1 academy's operation, with no more than eighty-thousand dollars
2 (\$80,000) granted to any one academy for the third year, and each
3 year thereafter, of operation.

4 (c) For the 2001–02 fiscal year, grants shall be made available
5 through a competitive process where the grants are awarded to
6 those applicants that best meet the criteria specified under Section
7 52292. After the 2001–02 fiscal year and each year thereafter,
8 grants shall be awarded to those applicants that received grants
9 pursuant to this chapter during the 2001–02 fiscal year and that met
10 the criteria set forth under Section 52292.

11 (d) At least 50 of the Information Technology Career
12 Academies shall be established in low-performing high schools
13 pursuant to the Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999
14 (Chapter 6.1 (commencing with Section 52050)).

15 (e) When awarding the grants, the Office of the Secretary for
16 Education shall, to the best of their ability, distribute grants
17 equitably among urban, rural, and suburban areas.

18 (f) Grants shall be awarded only to school districts, county
19 offices of education, or nonprofit organizations.

20 52292. Applicants are strongly encouraged to build on and
21 integrate other relevant and beneficial workforce development
22 and educational programs currently operating in the local area
23 including, but not limited to, technical preparation programs
24 provided through the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied
25 Technology Education Amendments of 1998 (105 P.L. 332), local
26 school-to-career partnerships as provided through
27 School-to-Career Initiatives (commencing with Section 53080) of
28 Chapter 17 of Part 28, Regional Occupational Centers and
29 Programs established pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with
30 Section 52300) of Chapter 9, local workforce investment boards,
31 and employer organizations. These programs and organizations
32 can help strengthen the academy by providing additional resources
33 and infrastructure. At a minimum, to receive funding for the
34 Information Technology Career Academies, applicants must be
35 able to provide the following information annually to the Secretary
36 for Education:

37 (a) An amount equal to a 100 percent match of all funds
38 received each year under Section 52291 in the form of direct and
39 in-kind support provided by the district or nonprofit receiving the
40 grant.



1 (b) An amount equal to a 100 percent match of all funds
2 received under Section 52291 in the form of direct and in-kind
3 support provided by participating companies or other private
4 sector organizations. This provision shall only apply after the
5 2002–03 fiscal year.

6 (c) An assurance that the state funds are used for the
7 development, operation, and support of the academy.

8 (d) An assurance that each academy will be established as a
9 “school within a school.”

10 (e) Academies serve a minimum of 90 pupils and no more than
11 200 pupils. However, the grantee may request, and the Secretary
12 for Education may waive, this requirement with assurance that
13 each academy will, at a minimum, provide the following:

14 (1) Assurance that the instruction provides coursework that
15 prepares the pupil for a regular high school diploma.

16 (2) A “laboratory” class related to the academy’s occupational
17 field.

18 (3) A mentor from the business community during the pupil’s
19 10th, 11th, or 12th grade year.

20 (4) An internship or paid job related to information technology.
21 This may be offered during the grade 11, grade 11 summer, or
22 grade 12 year. If summer school is required during summer after
23 the eleventh grade, a student may be exempted from this
24 requirement.

25 (5) Additional motivational activities with private sector
26 involvement to encourage academic and occupational preparation.

27 (6) An assurance that at least 50 percent of the students selected
28 to the academy are “at-risk.” However, the grantee may request,
29 and the Office of the Secretary for Education may waive, this
30 requirement.

31 (f) For purposes of this chapter, “at-risk” is defined as meeting
32 at least two of the four following criteria:

33 (1) Past record of irregular attendance.

34 (2) Past record of underachievement.

35 (3) Past record of low motivation or a disinterest in the regular
36 school program.

37 (4) Disadvantaged economically.

38 (g) The Secretary for Education may adjust any grant in
39 accordance with any of the required information provided by the
40 applicant or any information revealed by an audit.



1 52293. The Secretary for Education shall contract for a
2 three-year independent review of the effectiveness of the
3 Information Technology Career Academies. A preliminary report
4 shall be made available to the Governor and the Legislature by
5 October 1, 2003, and a final report by October 1, 2004. The
6 independent review shall include, but not be limited to, all of the
7 following:

8 (a) The level of participation by the National Academy
9 Foundation as specified in subdivision (b) of Section 53086.

10 (b) The ability of each high school to meet or exceed the criteria
11 as specified under Section 52292.

12 (c) The level of academic performance of academy pupils
13 compared to the rest of the pupil population at the high school. The
14 measurements shall include, but not be limited to, grade point
15 average, attendance rates, drop-out rates, graduation rates, and
16 measurements of pupil, parent, and employer satisfaction.

17 (d) The level of business and industry engagement including,
18 but not limited to, in-kind contributions, mentor services,
19 work-based learning opportunities, and summer jobs.

20 (e) The academic level of the pupil prior to, and after,
21 placement in the academy. The measurements shall include, but
22 not be limited to, grade point average, attendance rates, decreased
23 drop-out rates, and graduation rates.

