

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 16, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 16, 2009

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 381**

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**Introduced by Senator Wright  
(Coauthor: Senator Wyland)**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Anderson, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Cook, Conway, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Furutani, Gaines, Garrick, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Jeffries, Logue, Miller, Nestande, Nielsen, Portantino, Silva, Smyth, Tran, and Torlakson)*

February 26, 2009

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An act to amend Sections 51224 and 51225.3, 51225.3, and 51228 of the Education Code, relating to high school instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 381, as amended, Wright. ~~High school instruction:~~ *Instruction:* course of study.

Existing law prescribes the course of study a pupil is required to complete while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation. Existing law authorizes the governing board of a school district to adopt rules specifying additional coursework requirements. *Existing law requires each school district maintaining any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to offer to all otherwise qualified pupils in those grades a course of study that provides an opportunity for those pupils to attain entry-level employment skills in business or industry upon graduation from high school.*

This bill would prohibit a school district from adopting a graduation requirement that *commences with the 2010–11 school year and requires*

the completion of additional coursework to meet or exceed the requirements and prerequisites for admission to a 4-year California public university unless the district also ~~adopts a prescribed optional graduation requirement that requires the completion of an equal amount of coursework to attain entry-level employment skills in business or industry upon graduation from high school.~~ *The requires the completion of a sequence of at least 3 career and technical education courses. However, this provision would not apply to a school district that, by June 30, 2009, has adopted graduation requirements that require the completion of all minimum coursework necessary to meet the requirements and prerequisites for admission to a 4-year California public university.*

*The bill also would make conforming and clarifying changes.*

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 51224 of the Education Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 51224. The governing board of any school district maintaining
- 4 a high school shall prescribe courses of study designed to provide
- 5 *the skills and knowledge required for adult life to pupils attending*
- 6 *schools within the district, including providing every pupil with*
- 7 *the opportunity to be prepared to enter the world of work with*
- 8 *sufficient marketable skills and knowledge for legitimate*
- 9 *remunerative employment, as described in Section 51004. The*
- 10 *governing board shall prescribe courses of study, including, but*
- 11 *not limited to, a course of study designed to prepare prospective*
- 12 *pupils for admission to state colleges and universities and a course*
- 13 *of study for career technical training pursuant to subdivisions (a)*
- 14 *and (b) of Section 51228.*
- 15 SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is amended to
- 16 read:
- 17 51225.3. (a) Commencing with the 1988–89 school year, no
- 18 pupil shall receive a diploma of graduation from high school who,
- 19 while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed all of the
- 20 following:

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

4 (A) Three courses in English.

5 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

6 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
7 sciences.

8 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
9 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
10 one-semester course in American government and civics, and a  
11 one-semester course in economics.

12 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.  
13 For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this  
14 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be  
15 deemed a course in foreign language.

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

18 (2) Other coursework as the governing board of the school  
19 district may by rule specify, except as provided in subdivision (c).

20 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,  
21 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means  
22 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study which may  
23 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,  
24 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,  
25 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses  
26 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,  
27 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a  
28 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and  
29 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course  
30 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

31 (c) (1) In order to maintain a balance of course offerings for  
32 all pupils pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 51228, a  
33 school district shall not adopt a graduation requirement pursuant  
34 to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) that *commences with the*  
35 *2010–11 school year and* requires the completion of additional  
36 coursework to meet or exceed the requirements and prerequisites  
37 for admission to a four-year California public university ~~unless~~  
38 ~~the district also adopts an optional graduation requirement that~~  
39 ~~requires the completion of an equal amount of coursework to attain~~  
40 ~~entry-level employment skills in business or industry upon~~

1 graduation from high school. This optional graduation requirement  
2 shall include the coursework required in paragraph (1) of  
3 subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3 and a sequence *unless the*  
4 *district also requires the completion of a sequence* of at least three  
5 career and technical education courses. The governing board of  
6 the school district shall ensure that the sequence of career and  
7 technical education courses is aligned with the curriculum content  
8 standards for career and technical education adopted by the State  
9 Board of Education state board pursuant to Section 51225, that  
10 preserves a pupil's full array of options after high school.

11 (2) *This subdivision shall not apply to a school district that, by*  
12 *June 30, 2009, has adopted graduation requirements that require*  
13 *the completion of all minimum coursework necessary to meet the*  
14 *requirements and prerequisites for admission to a four-year*  
15 *California public university.*

16 SEC. 3. Section 51228 of the Education Code is amended to  
17 read:

18 51228. (a) Each school district maintaining any of grades 7  
19 to 12, inclusive, shall offer to all otherwise qualified pupils in those  
20 grades a course of study fulfilling the requirements and  
21 prerequisites for admission to the California public institutions of  
22 postsecondary education and shall provide a timely opportunity  
23 to each of those pupils to enroll within a four-year period in each  
24 course necessary to fulfill those requirements and prerequisites  
25 prior to graduation from high school.

26 (b) Each school district maintaining any of grades 7 to 12,  
27 inclusive, shall offer to all otherwise qualified pupils in those  
28 grades a course of study that provides an opportunity for those  
29 pupils to attain entry-level employment skills in business or  
30 industry upon graduation from high school, *and shall offer to each*  
31 *of those pupils the opportunity to enroll within a four-year period*  
32 *in each course necessary to fulfill this requirement prior to*  
33 *graduation from high school.* ~~Districts are~~

34 (c) A school district is encouraged to provide all pupils with a  
35 rigorous academic curriculum that integrates academic and career  
36 skills, incorporates applied learning in all disciplines, and prepares  
37 all pupils for high school graduation and career entry.

38 (e)

39 (d) A school district that adopts a required curriculum that meets  
40 or exceeds the model standards developed and adopted by the state

1 board pursuant to Section 51226 shall be deemed to have fulfilled  
2 its responsibilities pursuant to subdivision (b).

3 ~~(d)~~

4 (e) A school district that adopts a required curriculum pursuant  
5 to subdivision ~~(e)~~ (d) that meets or exceeds the model standards  
6 developed by the state board pursuant to Section 51226, or that  
7 adopts alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed  
8 course of study pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51225.3,  
9 may substitute pupil demonstration of competence in the prescribed  
10 subjects through a practical demonstration of these skills in a  
11 regional occupational center or program, work experience,  
12 interdisciplinary study, independent study, credit earned at a  
13 postsecondary institution, or other outside school experience, as  
14 prescribed by Section 51225.3.

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