

Introduced by Senator PavleyFebruary 26, 2009

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 520, as introduced, Pavley. High school curriculum: volunteer service.

Existing law sets forth the courses a pupil is required to complete while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to graduate from high school and authorizes the governing board of a school district to specify by rule other required coursework.

This bill would authorize the governing board of a school district to offer one credit towards the required number of credits required for graduation from high school for each 10 hours of volunteer service provided by a pupil, up to a maximum of 5 credits per pupil per semester.

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 is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 51225.3. (a) ~~Commencing with the 1988-89 school year, no~~
- 4 ~~No~~ pupil shall receive a diploma of graduation from high school
- 5 who, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed all of
- 6 the following:

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

(A) Three courses in English.

(B) Two courses in mathematics.

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

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

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

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

(2) Other coursework as the governing board of the school district may by rule specify.

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

(c) The governing board of a school district may elect to offer one credit towards the required number of credits necessary for graduation from high school for each 10 hours of volunteer service provided by a pupil, up to a maximum of five credits per pupil per semester.