

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 12, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 30, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 520

Introduced by Senator Pavley
(Coauthors: Senators Alquist and Romero)

February 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 amended, 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 12 hours of volunteer service provided *outside of regular school hours* by a pupil, up to a maximum of 5 credits per pupil per semester, and for a maximum of 2 semesters. The bill would require a school district that elects to offer credit for volunteer service to establish and maintain a list of suitable volunteer organizations from which a pupil ~~may~~ *would be required to* choose to complete the volunteer hours. *The bill also would require a school district to require the pupil to submit a report on the volunteer experience and the volunteer organizations to verify the hours served by the pupil.*

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) No pupil shall receive a diploma of graduation
4 from high school who, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not
5 completed all of the following:
6 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
7 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
8 otherwise specified.
9 (A) Three courses in English.
10 (B) Two courses in mathematics.
11 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
12 sciences.
13 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
14 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
15 one-semester course in American government and civics, and a
16 one-semester course in economics.
17 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.
18 For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
19 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
20 deemed a course in foreign language.
21 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been
22 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.
23 (2) Other coursework as the governing board of the school
24 district may by rule specify.
25 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
26 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
27 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study which may
28 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
29 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
30 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
31 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
32 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
33 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and
34 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course
35 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

1 (c) The governing board of a school district may elect to offer
2 one credit towards the required number of credits necessary for
3 graduation from high school for each 12 hours of volunteer service
4 provided *outside of regular school hours* by a pupil, up to a
5 maximum of five credits per pupil per semester, and for a
6 maximum of *any two semesters that the pupil attends high school*.
7 A school district that elects to offer credit for volunteer service
8 shall establish and maintain a list of suitable volunteer
9 organizations, *excluding political and advocacy organizations*,
10 from which a pupil ~~may~~ *shall* choose to complete the volunteer
11 hours, *shall require a pupil to submit a report to a school*
12 *representative on the volunteer experience, and shall require the*
13 *volunteer organization to verify the hours served by the pupil.*