

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1304**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Block**

February 18, 2011

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An act to add Section 44257.3 to the Education Code, relating to linked learning.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1304, as amended, Block. Linked learning.

Existing law authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue various types of teaching credentials and authorizations. Existing law establishes multiple pathway programs, which are multiyear comprehensive high school programs of integrated academic and technical study that are organized around a broad theme, interest area, or industry sector. Multiple pathway programs are comprised, among other things, of an integrated core curriculum that meets the eligibility requirements for admission to the University of California and the California State University and is delivered through project-based learning and other engaging instructional strategies that intentionally bring real-world context and relevance to the curriculum where broad themes, interest areas, and career technical education are emphasized.

This bill would define “linked learning programs,” and would authorize the commission to convene a workgroup consisting of specified members to develop program standards for the issuance of a recognition of study in linked learning, as defined, for linked learning competence for holders of a single subject teaching credential who will be teaching pupils enrolled in linked learning programs, as specified. The bill would authorize the commission to work with the

Superintendent of Public Instruction to gather and post, on an appropriate Internet Web site, best practices from school districts and schools on curriculum development and professional development relating to implementing and sustaining multiple pathway programs. *The bill would also provide that a recognition in linked learning is not considered a type of authorization, cannot be used as a condition of employment, does not replace subject matter competence requirements, and cannot be used in making certain employment decisions relating to reductions in employee positions.*

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’s economy relies upon a continually growing,
- 4 skilled, and educated workforce.
- 5 (b) California must increase pupils’ mastery of academic subject
- 6 matters, and to improve its high school graduation and
- 7 postsecondary education attainment rates.
- 8 (c) Secondary education must engage pupils while
- 9 simultaneously preparing them for academic and career choices
- 10 after high school.
- 11 (d) There is inherent educational value in both academic and
- 12 career technical coursework, and both should be promoted. When
- 13 linked and delivered in ways that mutually reinforce one another,
- 14 both academic and career technical courses are strengthened.
- 15 (e) All pupils should have equal access to schools and programs
- 16 that offer linked coursework. Pupils need a range of educational
- 17 experiences to prepare them for success beyond high school.
- 18 (f) A foundation of academic knowledge, general workplace
- 19 competencies, and occupationally specific knowledge and skills
- 20 enable pupils to better access all postsecondary options.
- 21 (g) Learning is enhanced when pupils are enrolled in courses
- 22 that use hands-on experiential learning to exemplify how academic
- 23 knowledge is used to solve real-world problems.
- 24 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature that all of the following
- 25 occur:

1 (1) High school courses provide pupils with linked learning  
2 experiences that will prepare them for the full range of  
3 postsecondary success.

4 (2) Academic teachers and career technical education teachers  
5 collaborate to provide linked learning educational programs to  
6 pupils.

7 (3) Teacher credential candidates have opportunities to learn  
8 pedagogical strategies to ensure pupil success in linked learning  
9 programs.

10 SEC. 2. Section 44257.3 is added to the Education Code, to  
11 read:

12 44257.3. (a) For purposes of this section, the following  
13 definitions apply:

14 (1) “Recognition of study in linked learning” is a statement  
15 added to a single subject teaching credential that the credential  
16 holder has completed a commission-approved program in linked  
17 learning teaching methods that can be applied to the academic  
18 instruction authorized by his or her credential. A recognition of  
19 study in a linked learning teacher preparation program may be  
20 offered as part of an initial teacher preparation program or as a  
21 separate program for previously credentialed teachers.

22 (2) “Linked learning programs” are programs and pathways  
23 described in Section 52372.5 and may include, but are not limited  
24 to, California partnership academies.

25 (b) The commission may convene a workgroup to develop  
26 program standards for the issuance of a recognition of study for  
27 linked learning competence for holders of a single subject teaching  
28 credential who will be teaching pupils enrolled in linked learning  
29 programs pursuant to Section 52372.5.

30 (c) Members of the workgroup shall include, but are not limited  
31 to, representatives from:

32 (1) The department.

33 (2) Approved teacher preparation programs, including at least  
34 one representative from the California State University, the  
35 University of California, and independent institutions of higher  
36 education. To the extent practicable, representatives should have  
37 an academic interest or prior experience in preparing teachers to  
38 teach in linked learning programs.

39 (3) The business community, including representatives from  
40 local chambers of commerce.

1 (4) School districts, county offices of education, and charter  
2 schools that have implemented linked learning programs, California  
3 partnership academies, or other similar programs that integrate  
4 core academic subject and industry applications.

5 (5) Regional occupational centers and programs.

6 (6) Practicing career technical education teachers.

7 (7) Other organizations deemed appropriate by the commission.

8 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that a successful candidate  
9 for a recognition of study developed in linked learning pursuant  
10 to subdivision (b) demonstrate appropriate knowledge, as  
11 determined by the commission based upon the recommendations  
12 of the workgroup convened pursuant to subdivision (b). Within  
13 the context of the academic content standards in kindergarten and  
14 any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, this knowledge may include, but  
15 is not limited to, an understanding of the following:

16 (1) How to develop and maintain industry and postsecondary  
17 educational partnerships.

18 (2) Ongoing professional learning.

19 (3) Work-based learning strategies.

20 (4) Career exposure and development.

21 (5) Interdisciplinary collaboration and project-based teaching  
22 methods.

23 (6) California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum  
24 Standards adopted by the state board.

25 (e) With respect to any recognition of study ~~for~~ *in* linked  
26 learning issued pursuant to subdivision (b), the California State  
27 University and other teacher preparation institutions are encouraged  
28 to establish goals for increasing the number of teachers prepared  
29 through linked learning programs.

30 (f) Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment programs are  
31 encouraged to provide appropriate support, mentoring, and  
32 assistance to beginning teachers who are teaching in linked learning  
33 programs, including candidates who are in externships.

34 (g) The commission may work with the Superintendent to gather  
35 and post, on an appropriate Internet Web site, best practices from  
36 school districts and schools on curriculum development and  
37 professional development relating to implementing and sustaining  
38 multiple pathway programs.

39 (h) The holder of a single subject teaching credential receiving  
40 a recognition of study in linked learning pursuant to subdivision

1 (b) is not authorized to teach subject matter content or English  
2 learners unless he or she holds an appropriate authorization or is  
3 employed on the basis of a local assignment option.

4 *(i) Any recognition of study in linked learning issued pursuant*  
5 *to subdivision (b) shall not be considered a type of authorization,*  
6 *shall not be used as a condition of employment, shall not replace*  
7 *a subject matter competence requirement, and shall not be used*  
8 *in making employment decisions pursuant to Section 44955.*

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