

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1521**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley**

January 18, 2012

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An act to amend Section 60642.5 of the Education Code, relating to the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1521, as introduced, Brownley. Standardized Testing and Reporting Program: academic achievement: assessment instrument.

The Leroy Greene California Assessment of Academic Achievement Act requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to design and implement a statewide pupil assessment program, known as the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with approval of the State Board of Education, to provide for the development of an assessment instrument that measures the degree to which pupils are achieving the academically rigorous content standards and performance standards, to the extent standards have been adopted by the State Board of Education. Existing law requires these standards-based achievement tests to include certain subject areas, as specified, and requires, at a minimum, a direct writing assessment once in elementary school and once in middle or junior high school and other items of applied academic skills if deemed valid and reliable, and if resources are made available for their use.

This bill would delete the requirements of the standards-based achievement tests, and would instead require the standards-based achievement tests to include California Standards Tests, modified assessments, alternate performance assessments, and primary language

assessments, as specified, that assess identified subject areas in specified grades.

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. Section 60642.5 of the Education Code is  
 2 amended to read:  
 3 60642.5. (a) The Superintendent, with approval of the state  
 4 board, shall provide for the development of an assessment  
 5 instrument, ~~to be called the California Standards Tests, under the~~  
 6 *Standardized Testing and Reporting Program* that measures the  
 7 degree to which pupils are achieving the academically rigorous  
 8 content standards and performance standards, to the extent  
 9 standards have been adopted by the state board. These  
 10 standards-based achievement tests shall ~~contain~~ *include all of the*  
 11 ~~subject areas specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of~~  
 12 ~~Section 60603 for grades 2 to 8, inclusive, and shall include an~~  
 13 ~~assessment in history/social science in at least one elementary or~~  
 14 ~~middle school grade level selected by the state board and science~~  
 15 ~~in at least one elementary or middle school grade level selected~~  
 16 ~~by the state board, and the core curriculum areas specified in~~  
 17 ~~paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 60603 for grades 9 to~~  
 18 ~~11, inclusive, except that history-social science shall not be~~  
 19 ~~included in the grade 9 assessment unless the state board adopts~~  
 20 ~~academic content standards for a grade 9 history-social science~~  
 21 ~~course, and shall include, at a minimum, a direct writing assessment~~  
 22 ~~once in elementary school and once in middle or junior high school~~  
 23 ~~and other items of applied academic skill if deemed valid and~~  
 24 ~~reliable and if resources are made available for their use. following~~  
 25 *assessments:*  
 26 (1) *California Standards Tests that assess:*  
 27 (A) *English language arts in grades 2 to 8, inclusive, and in*  
 28 *grades 10 and 11.*  
 29 (B) *Mathematics in grades 2 to 8, inclusive.*  
 30 (C) *End-of-course mathematics assessments for algebra I,*  
 31 *geometry, algebra II, and summative high school mathematics.*  
 32 (D) *Science in grades 5, 8, and 10.*

- 1 (E) *End-of-course science assessments for biology, chemistry,*
- 2 *earth science, and physics.*
- 3 (F) *History-social science in grades 8 and 11.*
- 4 (G) *End-of-course assessments for world history.*
- 5 (2) *Modified assessments that assess:*
- 6 (A) *English language arts in grades 3 to 8, inclusive, and in*
- 7 *grades 10 and 11.*
- 8 (B) *Mathematics in grades 3 to 7, inclusive.*
- 9 (C) *End-of-course mathematics assessments for algebra I and*
- 10 *geometry.*
- 11 (D) *Science in grades 5, 8, and 10.*
- 12 (3) *Alternate performance assessments that assess:*
- 13 (A) *English language arts in grades 2 to 8, inclusive, and in*
- 14 *grades 10 and 11.*
- 15 (B) *Mathematics in grades 2 to 8, inclusive, and in grades 10*
- 16 *and 11.*
- 17 (C) *Science in grades 5, 8, and 10.*
- 18 (4) *Primary language assessments, if available, pursuant to*
- 19 *paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) of Section 60640 that assess:*
- 20 (A) *English language arts in grades 2 to 8, inclusive, and in*
- 21 *grades 10 and 11.*
- 22 (B) *Mathematics in grades 2 to 8, inclusive.*
- 23 (C) *End-of-course mathematics assessments for algebra I and*
- 24 *geometry.*
- 25 (b) *This section, as amended during the 2011–12 Regular*
- 26 *Session, does not require the department to develop or administer*
- 27 *new assessments.*
- 28 (b)
- 29 (c) *In approving a contract for the development or administration*
- 30 *of the California Standards Tests, the state board shall consider*
- 31 *each of the following criteria:*
- 32 (1) *The ability of the contractor to produce valid, reliable*
- 33 *individual pupil scores.*
- 34 (2) *The ability of the contractor to report results pursuant to*
- 35 *subdivision (a) of Section 60643 by August 8.*
- 36 (3) *The ability of the contractor to ensure alignment between*
- 37 *the standards-based achievement test and the academically rigorous*
- 38 *content and performance standards as those standards are adopted*
- 39 *by the state board. This criterion shall include the ability of the*

1 contractor to implement a process to establish and maintain  
2 alignment between the test items and the standards.

3 (4) The per pupil cost estimates of developing and, if  
4 appropriate, administering the proposed assessment with a system  
5 to facilitate the determination of future per pupil cost  
6 determinations.

7 (5) The procedures of the contractor to ensure the security and  
8 integrity of test questions and materials.

9 (6) The experience of the contractor in successfully conducting  
10 testing programs adopted and administered by other states. For  
11 experience to be considered, the number of grades and pupils tested  
12 shall be provided.

13 (e)

14 (d) The standards-based achievement tests may use items from  
15 other tests.