

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 14, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1521

Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley

January 18, 2012

An act to amend Section 60642.5 of, *and to add Section 60640.2 to*, the Education Code, relating to ~~the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program~~ *pupil assessment*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1521, as amended, 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 State Department of Education to develop and adopt primary language assessments that are aligned to the state academic content standards, as specified.* 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 authorize the State Department of Education, subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, to make available to school districts a primary language assessment, as specified, that allows school districts to assess pupils with nonlimited-English-proficient status who are enrolled in a dual language immersion program, as specified, and redesignated fluent-English-proficient pupils. The bill would require that a school district that chooses to administer the primary language assessment do so at its own expense, and enter into an agreement, subject to the approval of the department, with the state testing contractor, as specified.

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The bill also 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 60640.2 is added to the Education Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 60640.2. (a) Subject to the approval of the state board, the
- 4 department may make available to school districts a primary
- 5 language assessment developed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of
- 6 paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) of Section 60640 for assessing
- 7 pupils with nonlimited-English-proficient status, as defined in
- 8 Section 60643, who are enrolled in a dual language immersion
- 9 program that includes the primary language of the assessment and
- 10 redesignated fluent-English-proficient pupils. The cost for the
- 11 assessment shall be the same for all school districts, and shall not
- 12 exceed the marginal cost of the assessment.
- 13 (b) A school district that chooses to administer a primary
- 14 language assessment pursuant to this section shall do so at its own
- 15 expense, and shall enter into an agreement for that purpose with
- 16 the state testing contractor, as described in subparagraph (C) of
- 17 paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) of Section 60640, subject to the
- 18 approval of the department.

1 SECTION 1.

2 SEC. 2. Section 60642.5 of the Education Code is amended to
3 read:

4 60642.5. (a) The Superintendent, with approval of the state
5 board, shall provide for the development of an assessment
6 instrument under the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program
7 that measures the degree to which pupils are achieving the
8 academically rigorous content standards and performance
9 standards, to the extent standards have been adopted by the state
10 board. These standards-based achievement tests shall include all
11 of the following assessments:

12 (1) California Standards Tests 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.

16 (C) End-of-course mathematics assessments for algebra I,
17 geometry, algebra II, and summative high school mathematics.

18 (D) Science in grades 5, 8, and 10.

19 (E) End-of-course science assessments for biology, chemistry,
20 earth science, and physics.

21 (F) History-social science in grades 8 and 11.

22 (G) End-of-course assessments for world history.

23 (2) Modified assessments that assess:

24 (A) English language arts in grades 3 to 8, inclusive, and in
25 grades 10 and 11.

26 (B) Mathematics in grades 3 to 7, inclusive.

27 (C) End-of-course mathematics assessments for algebra I and
28 geometry.

29 (D) Science in grades 5, 8, and 10.

30 (3) Alternate performance assessments that assess:

31 (A) English language arts in grades 2 to 8, inclusive, and in
32 grades 10 and 11.

33 (B) Mathematics in grades 2 to 8, inclusive, and in grades 10
34 and 11.

35 (C) Science in grades 5, 8, and 10.

36 (4) Primary language assessments, if available, pursuant to
37 paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) of Section 60640 that assess:

38 (A) English language arts in grades 2 to 8, inclusive, and in
39 grades 10 and 11.

40 (B) Mathematics in grades 2 to 8, inclusive.

1 (C) End-of-course mathematics assessments for algebra I and
2 geometry.

3 (b) This section, as amended during the 2011–12 Regular
4 Session, does not require the department to develop or administer
5 new assessments.

6 (c) In approving a contract for the development or administration
7 of the California Standards Tests, the state board shall consider
8 each of the following:

9 (1) The ability of the contractor to produce valid, reliable
10 individual pupil scores.

11 (2) The ability of the contractor to report results pursuant to
12 subdivision (a) of Section 60643 by August 8.

13 (3) The ability of the contractor to ensure alignment between
14 the standards-based achievement test and the academically rigorous
15 content and performance standards as those standards are adopted
16 by the state board. This criterion shall include the ability of the
17 contractor to implement a process to establish and maintain
18 alignment between the test items and the standards.

19 (4) The per pupil cost estimates of developing and, if
20 appropriate, administering the proposed assessment with a system
21 to facilitate the determination of future per pupil cost
22 determinations.

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

25 (6) The experience of the contractor in successfully conducting
26 testing programs adopted and administered by other states. For
27 experience to be considered, the number of grades and pupils tested
28 shall be provided.

29 (d) The standards-based achievement tests may use items from
30 other tests.