

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 15, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 13, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 20, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 31, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 11, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 24, 2011

SENATE BILL

No. 500

Introduced by Senator Hancock

February 17, 2011

An act to amend ~~Sections 54690 and~~ *Section* 54694 of, and to add Sections 54691.5 and 54697.5 to, the Education Code, relating to partnership academies.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 500, as amended, Hancock. Partnership academies.

(1) Existing law provides for the establishment of partnership academies for pupils at risk of dropping out of school by participating school districts that meet specified eligibility requirements, and requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue grants to school districts for planning, establishing, and maintaining the partnership academies.

This bill would request that the State Department of Education, using data collected from the yearly reports of the California Partnership Academies, provide an analysis of the partnership academies program components and make recommendations to the Legislature, as specified. The bill would also encourage the department to make recommendations

that would be shared with the Senate Committee on Education and the Assembly Committee on Education at the beginning of each new 2-year regular session of the Legislature regarding the various types of partnership academies and the implications of program oversight by the department of multiple types of partnership academies.

(2) Existing law requires the Superintendent to develop guidelines with respect to partnership academies, including, but not limited to, enrollment provisions, application procedures, and pupil eligibility.

This bill would, for purposes of the guidelines relating to enrollment, authorize school districts to determine the number of pupils enrolled in a partnership academy. The bill would also require the guidelines to include strategies to encourage, establish, and fund partnership academies serving rural school districts.

(3) Existing law limits the enrollment in partnership academies to pupils in grades 10 to 12, inclusive.

This bill would authorize a school district to enroll grade 9 pupils, provided the school district complies with specified requirements. The bill would prohibit a school district from receiving partnership academy funding for the establishment or maintenance of grade 9 partnership academy courses.

(4) The bill would require that, if funds are appropriated for the support of certain partnership academies in the annual Budget Act or any other measure, these funds be allocated in accordance with the provisions of law that govern partnership academies.

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 54690 of the Education Code, as amended~~
2 ~~by Section 1 of Chapter 650 of the Statutes of 2010, is amended~~
3 ~~to read:~~
4 ~~54690. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the~~
5 ~~partnership academies program has proven to be a highly effective~~
6 ~~state-school-private sector partnership, providing combined~~
7 ~~academic and occupational training to high school pupils who~~
8 ~~present a high risk of dropping out of school, and motivating those~~
9 ~~pupils to stay in school and graduate. Partnership academies are~~
10 ~~functioning in high schools across the state, with occupational~~
11 ~~education and skills development successfully offered in~~

1 California's 15 different industry sectors, including electronics,
2 computer technology, finance, agribusiness, alternative energy,
3 environmental design and construction, graphic arts and printing,
4 international business, and space. Partnership academies have been
5 honored with national awards for excellence, and the California
6 partnership academies have been given high accolades in various
7 textbooks and studies addressing career technical education
8 programs.

9 (b) The Legislature finds that the partnership academies are in
10 the forefront of school efforts to integrate academic and career
11 technical education and that they can be effective in providing an
12 integrated learning program and high motivation toward pursuing
13 skilled occupational fields to pupils at risk of dropping out of
14 school and to pupils not motivated by the regular educational
15 curriculum. Further, the Legislature finds that the partnership
16 academies can make a very positive contribution towards meeting
17 the needs of the state for a highly skilled and educated workforce
18 in the 21st century.

19 (c) Therefore, the Legislature hereby states its intent to expand
20 the number of partnership academies in this state's high schools,
21 hereafter to be known as California Partnership Academies; to
22 broaden the availability of these learning experiences to interested
23 pupils who do not meet the criteria of "at-risk" pupils; and to
24 encourage the establishment of academies whose occupational
25 fields address the needs of developing technologies.

26 (d) For purposes of this article, an "at-risk" pupil means a pupil
27 enrolled in high school who is at risk of dropping out of school,
28 as indicated by at least three of the following criteria:

29 (1) Past record of irregular attendance. For purposes of this
30 section, "irregular attendance" means absence from school 20
31 percent or more of the school year.

32 (2) Past record of underachievement in which the pupil is at
33 least one-third of a year behind the coursework for the respective
34 grade level, or as demonstrated by credits achieved.

35 (3) Past record of low motivation or a disinterest in the regular
36 school program.

37 (4) Disadvantaged economically.

38 (5) Scoring below basic or far below basic in mathematics or
39 English language arts on the standardized test administered

1 pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 60640) of Chapter
2 5 of Part 33.

3 ~~(6) Maintaining a grade point average of 2.2 or below, or the~~
4 ~~equivalent of a C minus.~~

5 ~~(e) Up to one-half of the pupils enrolled at a partnership~~
6 ~~academy may be pupils who do not meet the criteria of “at-risk”~~
7 ~~pupils.~~

8 ~~(f) The department shall not expend more than 5 percent of the~~
9 ~~funds received to carry out this article on administrative expenses.~~

10 ~~SEC. 2.~~

11 *SECTION 1.* Section 54691.5 is added to the Education Code,
12 to read:

13 54691.5. (a) Using data collected from the yearly reports of
14 the California Partnership Academies, the department is requested
15 to provide an analysis of the partnership academies program
16 components and to make recommendations to the Legislature on
17 ways to improve the quality of curriculum, the delivery of services,
18 ways to address enrollment issues, including, but not limited to,
19 pupil eligibility and performance, professional development for
20 staff, access to and administration of pupil work experience, and
21 sustainability of the partnership academies when state support
22 ceases.

23 (b) The department is encouraged to make recommendations
24 regarding the various types of partnership academies that have
25 been created by the Legislature or funded privately by business
26 and industry and the implications of program oversight by the
27 department of multiple types of partnership academies. The
28 department is encouraged to share ~~their~~ *its* findings and
29 recommendations with the Senate Committee on Education and
30 the Assembly Committee on Education at the beginning of each
31 new two-year regular session of the Legislature.

32 ~~SEC. 3.~~

33 *SEC. 2.* Section 54694 of the Education Code is amended to
34 read:

35 54694. The Superintendent shall develop guidelines with
36 respect to the California Partnership Academies. The guidelines
37 shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

38 (a) Enrollment provisions. For purposes of this subdivision,
39 school districts may determine the total number of pupils enrolled
40 in a partnership academy.

- 1 (b) Application procedures.
- 2 (c) Pupil eligibility.
- 3 (d) Strategies to encourage, establish, and fund partnership
- 4 academies serving rural school districts.

5 ~~SEC. 4.~~

6 *SEC. 3.* Section 54697.5 is added to the Education Code, to
7 read:

8 54697.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district
9 may authorize grade 9 pupils to enroll in partnership academies.
10 If a school district elects to enroll grade 9 pupils, the school district
11 shall comply with all of the following:

12 (1) Adopt a policy describing the goals and criteria for grade 9
13 participation.

14 (2) Submit an academy program of study to the department
15 demonstrating how the grade 9 course is integral to the academy.

16 (3) Submit to the department data on grade 9 participation, as
17 specified by the department.

18 (b) A school district shall not receive funding pursuant to this
19 article for the establishment or maintenance of grade 9 courses
20 established pursuant to this section. All costs associated with
21 establishing or maintaining grade 9 courses shall be borne solely
22 by the school district.

23 ~~SEC. 5.~~

24 *SEC. 4.* If funds are appropriated in the annual Budget Act or
25 any other measure for the support of partnership academies funded
26 pursuant to Chapter 352 of the Statutes of 2005, these funds shall
27 be allocated in the manner specified in Article 5 (commencing
28 with Section 54690) of Chapter 9 of Part 29 of Division 4 of Title
29 2 of the Education Code.