

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 12, 2011
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 26, 2011
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 21, 2011

SENATE BILL

No. 532

**Introduced by Senator Hernandez
(Coauthor: Senator Price)**

February 17, 2011

An act to amend Section 52240 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 532, as amended, Hernandez. Pupil instruction: high school curriculum.

(1) Existing law contains legislative findings and declarations stating that advanced placement courses, among other things, help to improve the overall curriculum at schools where they are provided and provide a cost-effective means for high school pupils to obtain college-level coursework experience.

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction annually to update the information on advanced placement available on the Internet Web site of the State Department of Education to include current information on the various means available to school districts to offer or access advanced placement courses, including online courses, and annually to communicate with high schools that offer advanced placement courses in fewer than 5 subjects and inform them of the various options for making advanced placement courses and other rigorous courses available to pupils who may benefit from them.

(2) Existing law authorizes a system of incentives to encourage high schools to operate International Baccalaureate Diploma Programs, and to encourage pupils in these schools to enroll in, attempt, and pass the International Baccalaureate course of study and examinations that lead to the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

This bill would encourage the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges, the Academic Senate of the California State University, and the Academic Senate of the University of California to continue their efforts to adopt consistent systemwide guidelines for the acceptance and granting of credit for International Baccalaureate Diploma Program courses taken by students while they are in high school.

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 52240 of the Education Code is amended
 2 to read:
 3 52240. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the
 4 following:
 5 (1) Advanced placement courses, for which school credit is
 6 awarded, provide rigorous academic coursework opportunities for
 7 high school pupils and help to improve the overall curriculum at
 8 schools where those courses are provided.
 9 (2) The successful completion of advanced placement courses
 10 and the subsequent advanced placement examinations, which are
 11 conducted by the College Entrance Examination Board and for
 12 which college credit is awarded, provide a cost-effective means
 13 for high school pupils to obtain college-level coursework
 14 experience.
 15 (3) To the extent that economically disadvantaged pupils are
 16 provided financial assistance to take advanced placement
 17 examinations, they will be provided with successful college-level
 18 experience and be encouraged to pursue postsecondary education
 19 opportunities.
 20 ~~(b) It is the intent of the Legislature, therefore, that certain state~~
 21 ~~funding that currently is provided to school districts be made~~
 22 ~~available to provide financial assistance to economically~~
 23 ~~disadvantaged pupils for the payment of advanced placement~~

1 examination fees. It is further the intent of the Legislature that a
2 competitive grant program also be established for the purpose of
3 awarding grants to economically disadvantaged pupils to cover
4 the costs of advanced placement examination fees, thereby creating
5 a second source of financial assistance for economically
6 disadvantaged pupils taking advanced placement examinations.

7 (e)

8 (b) The Superintendent annually shall update the information
9 on advanced placement available on the department's Internet Web
10 site to include current information on the various means available
11 to school districts to offer or access advanced placement courses,
12 including online courses. The Superintendent annually shall
13 communicate with high schools that offer advanced placement
14 courses in fewer than five subjects, and inform them of the various
15 options for making advanced placement courses and other rigorous
16 courses available to pupils who may benefit from them.

17 SEC. 2. The Legislature encourages the Academic Senate for
18 the California Community Colleges, the Academic Senate of the
19 California State University, and the Academic Senate of the
20 University of California to continue their efforts to adopt consistent
21 systemwide guidelines for the acceptance and granting of credit
22 for International Baccalaureate Diploma Program courses taken
23 by students while they are in high school.

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