

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 30, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 15, 2011

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 Sections 52240 and 52920 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 532, as amended, Hernandez. Pupil instruction: high school curriculum: advanced placement courses: International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

(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 to annually 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 to annually 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 require the Superintendent to annually update information on the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program available on the department's Internet Web site and to provide support to high schools that offer International Baccalaureate courses, as specified. The 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

1 examinations, they will be provided with successful college-level
2 experience and be encouraged to pursue postsecondary education
3 opportunities.

4 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature, therefore, that certain state
5 funding that currently is provided to school districts be made
6 available to provide financial assistance to economically
7 disadvantaged pupils for the payment of advanced placement
8 examination fees. It is further the intent of the Legislature that a
9 competitive grant program also be established for the purpose of
10 awarding grants to economically disadvantaged pupils to cover
11 the costs of advanced placement examination fees, thereby creating
12 a second source of financial assistance for economically
13 disadvantaged pupils taking advanced placement examinations.

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

23 SEC. 2. Section 52920 of the Education Code is amended to
24 read:

25 52920. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the
26 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is a comprehensive
27 and rigorous two-year curriculum, leading to examinations for
28 high school pupils. Its objectives are to provide pupils with a
29 balanced education, to facilitate geographic and cultural mobility,
30 and to promote international understanding through a shared
31 academic experience. Successful International Baccalaureate
32 Diploma candidates pursue a specific, intensive, balanced liberal
33 arts course of study and must pass rigorous examinations in seven
34 curricula areas. Successful International Baccalaureate Diploma
35 candidates are typically granted substantial advanced placement
36 credit at the finest colleges and universities in the nation. The
37 academic content and rigor of the instruction and examinations in
38 International Baccalaureate Diploma Programs is governed and
39 continuously monitored by the International Baccalaureate
40 Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

1 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a system of
2 appropriate incentives to encourage high schools to offer the
3 intensive, rigorous course of instruction leading to International
4 Baccalaureate Diplomas and to encourage pupils in these schools
5 to enroll in, attempt, and pass the rigorous International
6 Baccalaureate Diploma course of study and the rigorous
7 examinations leading to the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

8 (c) The Superintendent shall annually update information on
9 the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program available on the
10 department's Internet Web site. The Superintendent also shall
11 provide support to high schools that offer International
12 Baccalaureate (IB) courses to facilitate communication with ~~their~~
13 ~~local community colleges and academic senates~~ *the Academic*
14 *Senate for the California Community Colleges, the Academic*
15 *Senate of the California State University, and the Academic Senate*
16 *of the University of California* about the rigor of those courses and
17 to ensure that college credit is given to pupils who participate so
18 that they benefit from successful efforts in IB programs.

19 SEC. 3. The Legislature encourages the Academic Senate for
20 the California Community Colleges, the Academic Senate of the
21 California State University, and the Academic Senate of the
22 University of California to continue their efforts to adopt consistent
23 systemwide guidelines for the acceptance and granting of credit
24 for International Baccalaureate Diploma Program courses taken
25 by students while they are in high school.