

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 24, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 5, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 14, 2012

SENATE BILL

No. 1458

Introduced by Senator Steinberg
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Bonilla)

February 24, 2012

An act to amend Section 52052 of, and to add Section 52052.9 to, the Education Code, relating to school accountability.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1458, as amended, Steinberg. School accountability: Academic Performance Index: graduation rates.

The Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999 requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to develop an Academic Performance Index (API) that measures the performance of schools and the academic performance of pupils. Under existing law, the API consists of a variety of indicators, including graduation rates for pupils in secondary schools, and is used to measure the progress of specified schools and to rank all public schools for the purpose of the High Achieving/Improving Schools Program. Existing law requires the Superintendent to determine the accuracy of high school graduation rate data before including that data in the API, and to provide an annual report to the Legislature on graduation and dropout rates, as specified.

This bill would authorize the Superintendent to develop and implement a specified program of school quality review to complement the API, if an appropriation for this purpose is made in the annual

Budget Act. The bill would require the Superintendent to annually provide to local educational agencies and the public an explanation of the individual components of the API and their relative values, as specified, and would prohibit an additional element from being incorporated into the API until at least one full school year after the state board's decision to include the element into the API. The bill would also require the Superintendent to annually determine the accuracy of graduation rate data, and would delete the requirement that the Superintendent report annually to the Legislature on graduation and dropout rates. The bill would authorize the Superintendent to incorporate into the API the rates at which pupils successfully promote from one grade to the next in middle school and high school and matriculate from middle school to high school, as well as pupil preparedness for postsecondary education and career. The bill would delete the requirement that the API be used to measure the progress of specified schools and to rank all public schools for the purpose of the High Achieving/Improving Schools Program. To the extent this bill would require school districts to report additional data for purposes of inclusion in the API or other school quality review, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law provides that pupil scores from certain standards-based achievement tests and the high school exit examination be incorporated into the API, as specified. Under existing law, the results of these tests constitute at least 60% of the value of the index.

This bill would instead require that these test results constitute no more than ~~40%~~ 60% of the value of the index for secondary schools, commencing with the ~~2014-15 school year~~, *baseline API calculation in 2016*, and for each ~~school~~ year thereafter, and constitute at least 40% of the value of the index for primary and middle schools.

This bill would require the Superintendent, on or before October 1, 2013, to report to the Legislature a method for increasing emphasis on pupil mastery of standards in science and social science through the system of public school accountability or by other means and an alternative method or methods, in place of decile rank, for determining eligibility, preferences, or priorities for any statutory program that uses decile rank as a determining factor.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The state’s primary accountability measure for public
4 schools, the Academic Performance Index (API), has performed
5 an important function and has served as a compass by which
6 schools have directed their efforts to improve.

7 (b) The API has been limited, however, by an overreliance on
8 the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program as the chief
9 indicator of a school’s performance. Statute requires dropout and
10 graduation rates to be included in a school’s API score, but those
11 rates have not yet been incorporated. The API does not indicate
12 the degree to which a school has prepared its pupils for success in
13 postsecondary education and career.

14 (c) The transition to new common core academic content
15 standards and the new assessments that will accompany those
16 standards present an opportunity for the state to reexamine its
17 system of public school accountability, the goals for its public
18 schools, and the most appropriate methods to measure progress
19 towards those goals.

20 SEC. 2. Section 52052 of the Education Code is amended to
21 read:

22 52052. (a) (1) The Superintendent, with approval of the state
23 board, shall develop an Academic Performance Index (API), to
24 measure the performance of schools, especially the academic
25 performance of pupils.

26 (2) A school shall demonstrate comparable improvement in
27 academic achievement as measured by the API by all numerically
28 significant pupil subgroups at the school, including:

29 (A) Ethnic subgroups.

30 (B) Socioeconomically disadvantaged pupils.

31 (C) English learners.

1 (D) Pupils with disabilities.

2 (3) (A) For purposes of this section, a numerically significant
3 pupil subgroup is one that meets both of the following criteria:

4 (i) The subgroup consists of at least 50 pupils each of whom
5 has a valid test score.

6 (ii) The subgroup constitutes at least 15 percent of the total
7 population of pupils at a school who have valid test scores.

8 (B) If a subgroup does not constitute 15 percent of the total
9 population of pupils at a school who have valid test scores, the
10 subgroup may constitute a numerically significant pupil subgroup
11 if it has at least 100 valid test scores.

12 (C) For a school with an API score that is based on no fewer
13 than 11 and no more than 99 pupils with valid test scores,
14 numerically significant pupil subgroups shall be defined by the
15 Superintendent, with approval by the state board.

16 (4) (A) The API shall consist of a variety of indicators currently
17 reported to the department, including, but not limited to, the results
18 of the achievement test administered pursuant to Section 60640,
19 attendance rates for pupils in elementary schools, middle schools,
20 and secondary schools, and the graduation rates for pupils in
21 secondary schools.

22 (B) The Superintendent, with the approval of the state board,
23 may also incorporate into the API the rates at which pupils
24 successfully promote from one grade to the next in middle school
25 and high school, and successfully matriculate from middle school
26 to high school.

27 (C) Graduation rates for pupils in secondary schools shall be
28 calculated for the API as follows:

29 (i) Four-year graduation rates shall be calculated by taking the
30 number of pupils who graduated on time for the current school
31 year, which is considered to be three school years after the pupils
32 entered grade 9 for the first time, and dividing that number by the
33 total calculated in clause (ii).

34 (ii) The number of pupils entering grade 9 for the first time in
35 the school year three school years before the current school year,
36 plus the number of pupils who transferred into the class graduating
37 at the end of the current school year between the school year that
38 was three school years before the current school year and the date
39 of graduation, less the number of pupils who transferred out of the
40 school between the school year that was three school years before

1 the current school year and the date of graduation who were
2 members of the class that is graduating at the end of the current
3 school year.

4 (iii) Five-year graduation rates shall be calculated by taking the
5 number of pupils who graduated on time for the current school
6 year, which is considered to be four school years after the pupils
7 entered grade 9 for the first time, and dividing that number by the
8 total calculated in clause (iv).

9 (iv) The number of pupils entering grade 9 for the first time in
10 the school year four years before the current school year, plus the
11 number of pupils who transferred into the class graduating at the
12 end of the current school year between the school year that was
13 four school years before the current school year and the date of
14 graduation, less the number of pupils who transferred out of the
15 school between the school year that was four years before the
16 current school year and the date of graduation who were members
17 of the class that is graduating at the end of the current school year.

18 (v) Six-year graduation rates shall be calculated by taking the
19 number of pupils who graduated on time for the current school
20 year, which is considered to be five school years after the pupils
21 entered grade 9 for the first time, and dividing that number by the
22 total calculated in clause (vi).

23 (vi) The number of pupils entering grade 9 for the first time in
24 the school year five years before the current school year, plus the
25 number of pupils who transferred into the class graduating at the
26 end of the current school year between the school year that was
27 five school years before the current school year and the date of
28 graduation, less the number of pupils who transferred out of the
29 school between the school year that was five years before the
30 current school year and the date of graduation who were members
31 of the class that is graduating at the end of the current school year.

32 (D) The inclusion of five- and six-year graduation rates for
33 pupils in secondary schools shall meet the following requirements:

34 (i) Schools shall be granted one-half the credit in their API
35 scores for graduating pupils in five years that they are granted for
36 graduating pupils in four years.

37 (ii) Schools shall be granted one-quarter the credit in their API
38 scores for graduating pupils in six years that they are granted for
39 graduating pupils in four years.

1 (iii) Notwithstanding clauses (i) and (ii), schools shall be granted
2 full credit in their API scores for graduating in five or six years a
3 pupil with disabilities who graduates in accordance with his or her
4 individualized education program.

5 (E) The pupil data collected for the API that comes from the
6 achievement test administered pursuant to Section 60640 and the
7 high school exit examination administered pursuant to Section
8 60851, when fully implemented, shall be disaggregated by special
9 education status, English learners, socioeconomic status, gender,
10 and ethnic group. Only the test scores of pupils who were counted
11 as part of the enrollment in the annual data collection of the
12 California Basic Educational Data System for the current fiscal
13 year and who were continuously enrolled during that year may be
14 included in the test result reports in the API score of the school.

15 (F) (i) Commencing with the ~~2014-15 school year~~, *baseline*
16 *API calculation in 2016*, and for each ~~school~~ year thereafter, results
17 of the achievement test and other tests specified in subdivision (b)
18 shall constitute no more than ~~40~~ 60 percent of the value of the
19 index for secondary schools.

20 (ii) In addition to the elements required by this paragraph, the
21 Superintendent, with approval of the state board, may incorporate
22 into the index for secondary schools valid, reliable, and stable
23 measures of pupil preparedness for postsecondary education and
24 career.

25 (G) Results of the achievement test and other tests specified in
26 subdivision (b) shall constitute at least 40 percent of the value of
27 the index for primary schools and middle schools.

28 (H) It is the intent of the Legislature that the state's system of
29 public school accountability be more closely aligned with both the
30 public's expectations for public education and the workforce needs
31 of the state's economy. It is therefore necessary that the
32 accountability system evolve beyond its narrow focus on pupil test
33 scores to encompass other valuable information about school
34 performance, including, but not limited to, pupil preparedness for
35 college and career, as well as the high school graduation rates
36 already required by law.

37 (I) The Superintendent shall annually determine the accuracy
38 of graduation rate data. Notwithstanding any other law, graduation
39 rates for pupils in dropout recovery high schools shall not be
40 included in the API. For purposes of this subparagraph, "dropout

1 recovery high school” means a high school in which 50 percent
2 or more of its pupils have been designated as dropouts pursuant
3 to the exit/withdrawal codes developed by the department.

4 (J) To complement the API, the Superintendent, with the
5 approval of the state board, may develop and implement a program
6 of school quality review that features locally convened panels to
7 visit schools, observe teachers, interview pupils, and examine pupil
8 work, if an appropriation for this purpose is made in the annual
9 Budget Act.

10 (K) The Superintendent shall annually provide to local
11 educational agencies and the public a transparent and
12 understandable explanation of the individual components of the
13 API and their relative values within the API.

14 (L) An additional element chosen by the Superintendent and
15 the state board for inclusion in the API pursuant to this paragraph
16 shall not be incorporated into the API until at least one full school
17 year after the state board’s decision to include the element into the
18 API.

19 (b) Pupil scores from the following tests, when available and
20 when found to be valid and reliable for this purpose, shall be
21 incorporated into the API:

22 (1) The standards-based achievement tests provided for in
23 Section 60642.5.

24 (2) The high school exit examination.

25 (c) Based on the API, the Superintendent shall develop, and the
26 state board shall adopt, expected annual percentage growth targets
27 for all schools based on their API baseline score from the previous
28 year. Schools are expected to meet these growth targets through
29 effective allocation of available resources. For schools below the
30 statewide API performance target adopted by the state board
31 pursuant to subdivision (d), the minimum annual percentage growth
32 target shall be 5 percent of the difference between the actual API
33 score of a school and the statewide API performance target, or one
34 API point, whichever is greater. Schools at or above the statewide
35 API performance target shall have, as their growth target,
36 maintenance of their API score above the statewide API
37 performance target. However, the state board may set differential
38 growth targets based on grade level of instruction and may set
39 higher growth targets for the lowest performing schools because
40 they have the greatest room for improvement. To meet its growth

1 target, a school shall demonstrate that the annual growth in its API
2 is equal to or more than its schoolwide annual percentage growth
3 target and that all numerically significant pupil subgroups, as
4 defined in subdivision (a), are making comparable improvement.

5 (d) Upon adoption of state performance standards by the state
6 board, the Superintendent shall recommend, and the state board
7 shall adopt, a statewide API performance target that includes
8 consideration of performance standards and represents the
9 proficiency level required to meet the state performance target.
10 When the API is fully developed, schools, at a minimum, shall
11 meet their annual API growth targets to be eligible for the
12 Governor's Performance Award Program as set forth in Section
13 52057. The state board may establish additional criteria that schools
14 must meet to be eligible for the Governor's Performance Award
15 Program.

16 (e) (1) A school with 11 to 99 pupils with valid test scores shall
17 receive an API score with an asterisk that indicates less statistical
18 certainty than API scores based on 100 or more test scores.

19 (2) A school annually shall receive an API score, unless the
20 Superintendent determines that an API score would be an invalid
21 measure of the performance of the school for one or more of the
22 following reasons:

23 (A) Irregularities in testing procedures occurred.

24 (B) The data used to calculate the API score of the school are
25 not representative of the pupil population at the school.

26 (C) Significant demographic changes in the pupil population
27 render year-to-year comparisons of pupil performance invalid.

28 (D) The department discovers or receives information indicating
29 that the integrity of the API score has been compromised.

30 (E) Insufficient pupil participation in the assessments included
31 in the API.

32 (3) If a school has fewer than 100 pupils with valid test scores,
33 the calculation of the API or adequate yearly progress pursuant to
34 the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301
35 et seq.) and federal regulations may be calculated over more than
36 one annual administration of the tests administered pursuant to
37 Section 60640 and the high school exit examination administered
38 pursuant to Section 60851, consistent with regulations adopted by
39 the state board.

1 (f) Only schools with 100 or more test scores contributing to
2 the API may be included in the API rankings.

3 (g) The Superintendent, with the approval of the state board,
4 shall develop an alternative accountability system for schools under
5 the jurisdiction of a county board of education or a county
6 superintendent of schools, community day schools, nonpublic,
7 nonsectarian schools pursuant to Section 56366, and alternative
8 schools serving high-risk pupils, including continuation high
9 schools and opportunity schools. Schools in the alternative
10 accountability system may receive an API score, but shall not be
11 included in the API rankings.

12 SEC. 3. Section 52052.9 is added to the Education Code, to
13 read:

14 52052.9. (a) On or before October 1, 2013, the Superintendent
15 shall report to the Legislature and recommend to the state board
16 for adoption a method or methods for increasing the emphasis on
17 pupil mastery of standards in science and social science through
18 the system of public school accountability or by other means.

19 (b) On or before October 1, 2013, the Superintendent, in
20 consultation with the advisory committee established pursuant to
21 Section 52052.5, shall report to the Legislature an alternative
22 method or methods, in place of decile rank, for determining
23 eligibility, preferences, or priorities for any statutory program that
24 currently uses decile rank as a determining factor.

25 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
26 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
27 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
28 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
29 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.