

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 455**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Medina  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Quirk)**

February 19, 2013

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An act to amend Sections 56351.7, 56351.8, and 56351.9 of, and to add Article 3.6 (commencing with Section 56355) to Chapter 4 of Part 30 of Division 4 of Title 2 of, the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 455, as amended, Medina. Pupil instruction: special education.

(1) Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to form an advisory task force to develop standards for the mastery of the braille code as a child progresses through kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive. Existing law requires the Superintendent to utilize this advisory task force to develop standards for visually impaired pupils to learn, and achieve mastery of, the braille mathematics code, and requires the task force to report those standards to the State Board of Education by March 1, 2006.

This bill would replace the advisory task force with a group of experts on the blind and visually impaired, as defined, and would require the Superintendent, upon consultation with the group of experts, to develop standards that are aligned to the common core academic standards for blind and visually impaired pupils to learn, and achieve mastery of and literacy in, braille and braille mathematics codes. The bill would require

the Superintendent to recommend those standards to the state board by March 30, 2015.

This bill would additionally require the Superintendent, upon consultation with a group of experts on the—deaf *Deaf* and hard-of-hearing, to develop standards that are aligned to the common core academic content standards, for—deaf *Deaf* and hard-of-hearing pupils to learn, and achieve mastery of and literacy in, American Sign Language as a child progresses through kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive. The bill would require the Superintendent to recommend these standards to the state board by March 30, 2015.

(2) Existing law requires the state board to adopt braille reading and mathematics standards for visually impaired pupils by June 1, 2006.

This bill would require the state board to adopt braille reading and mathematics standards for blind and visually impaired pupils that are aligned to the common core academic content standards by June 30, 2015, as specified. The bill would require county offices of education, school districts, and special education local plan areas to provide blind and visually impaired pupils opportunities for instruction to master the standards adopted by the state board, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

This bill would also require the state board to adopt American Sign Language standards for—deaf *Deaf* and hard-of-hearing pupils that are aligned to the common core academic content standards by June 30, 2015, as specified. The bill would require county offices of education, school districts, and special education local plan areas to provide—deaf *Deaf* and hard-of-hearing pupils opportunities for instruction to master the standards adopted by the state board, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

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. Section 56351.7 of the Education Code is  
2 amended to read:

3 56351.7. (a) The Superintendent shall consult with a group of  
4 experts on the blind and visually impaired to develop standards  
5 that are aligned to the common core academic content standards  
6 to learn, and achieve the mastery of and literacy in, the braille code  
7 as a pupil progresses through kindergarten and grades 1 to 12,  
8 inclusive.

9 (b) The group of experts shall include, but shall not be limited  
10 to, members representing all of the following:

- 11 (1) Parents of blind and visually impaired pupils.
- 12 (2) Teachers of blind and visually impaired pupils.
- 13 (3) Researchers in the field of blindness and visual impairment.
- 14 (4) Curriculum and instructional specialists with experience  
15 with blind and visually impaired pupils.
- 16 (5) Groups that advocate for teaching of, and use of, braille.

17 (c) At least one-half of the members of the group of experts  
18 shall be currently employed public schoolteachers.

19 (d) The Superintendent shall make a recommendation to the  
20 state board regarding the standards developed pursuant to  
21 subdivision (a) by March 30, 2015.

22 SEC. 2. Section 56351.8 of the Education Code is amended to  
23 read:

24 56351.8. (a) The Superintendent shall consult with the group  
25 of experts established pursuant to Section 56351.7 to develop  
26 standards that are aligned to the common core academic content  
27 standards for pupils described in subdivision (b) to learn, and to  
28 achieve mastery of and literacy in, the braille mathematics code  
29 as they progress through kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

30 (b) The standards described in subdivision (a) shall be developed  
31 for pupils who, due to a visual impairment, are functionally blind  
32 or may be expected to have a need to learn the braille code as their  
33 primary literacy mode for learning.

34 (c) The Superintendent shall make a recommendation to the  
35 state board regarding the standards developed pursuant to  
36 subdivision (a) by March 30, 2015.

37 SEC. 3. Section 56351.9 of the Education Code is amended to  
38 read:

1 56351.9. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (c), by June  
2 30, 2015, the state board shall adopt braille reading and  
3 mathematics standards that are aligned to the common core  
4 academic content standards for pupils who, due to a visual  
5 impairment, are functionally blind or may be expected to have a  
6 need to learn the braille code as their primary literacy mode for  
7 learning.

8 (b) County offices of education, school districts, and special  
9 education local plan areas shall provide to pupils described in  
10 subdivision (a) opportunities for instruction to master the braille  
11 reading and mathematics standards adopted by the state board.

12 (c) (1) The state board shall, if it revises braille reading or  
13 mathematics standards recommended by the Superintendent,  
14 provide written reasons for the revisions at a public meeting held  
15 pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9  
16 commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of  
17 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

18 (2) The state board shall adopt the revised braille reading and  
19 mathematics standards at a meeting subsequent to the meeting held  
20 pursuant to paragraph (1) but no later than August 31, 2015.

21 SEC. 4. Article 3.6 (commencing with Section 56355) is added  
22 to Chapter 4 of Part 30 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education  
23 Code, to read:

24  
25 Article 3.6. Individualized Education Program for Deaf and  
26 Hard-of-hearing Pupils  
27

28 56355. (a) The Superintendent shall consult with a group of  
29 experts on the ~~deaf~~ *Deaf* and hard-of-hearing to develop standards  
30 that are aligned to the common core academic content standards  
31 to learn, and achieve the mastery of and literacy in, American Sign  
32 Language as a pupil progresses through kindergarten and grades  
33 1 to 12, inclusive.

34 (b) The group of experts shall include, but shall not be limited  
35 to, members representing all of the following:

- 36 (1) Parents of ~~deaf~~ *Deaf* and hard-of-hearing pupils.
- 37 (2) Teachers of ~~deaf~~ *Deaf* and hard-of-hearing pupils.
- 38 (3) Researchers in the field of deafness and auditory impairment.
- 39 (4) Curriculum and instructional specialists with experience  
40 with ~~deaf~~ *Deaf* and hard-of-hearing pupils.

1 (5) Groups that advocate for teaching of, and use of, American  
2 Sign Language.

3 (c) At least one-half of the members of the group of experts  
4 shall be currently employed public schoolteachers.

5 (d) The standards described in subdivision (a) shall be developed  
6 for pupils who are ~~deaf~~ *Deaf* or hard-of-hearing and who use  
7 American Sign Language as their primary language or literacy  
8 access mode.

9 (e) The Superintendent shall make a recommendation to the  
10 state board regarding the standards developed pursuant to  
11 subdivision (a) by March 30, 2015.

12 56356. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (c), by June 30,  
13 2015, the state board shall adopt American Sign Language literacy  
14 standards that are aligned to the common core academic content  
15 standards for pupils who are ~~deaf~~ *Deaf* or hard-of-hearing and use  
16 American Sign Language as their primary language or literacy  
17 access mode.

18 (b) County offices of education, school districts, and special  
19 education local plan areas shall provide to pupils described in  
20 subdivision (a) opportunities for instruction to master the American  
21 Sign Language literacy standards adopted by the state board.

22 (c) (1) The state board shall, if it revises American Sign  
23 Language literacy standards recommended by the Superintendent,  
24 provide written reasons for the revisions at a public meeting held  
25 pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9  
26 commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of  
27 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

28 (2) The state board shall adopt the revised standards at a meeting  
29 subsequent to the meeting held pursuant to paragraph (1) but no  
30 later than August 31, 2015.

31 SEC. 5. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
32 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
33 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
34 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
35 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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