

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 700**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Gomez**

February 21, 2013

---

---

An act to amend Sections 51220 and 51225.3 of, and to add Section 51226.8 to, Section 33540 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 700, as amended, Gomez. Pupil instruction: social sciences: voter education.

(1) Existing law requires instruction in social sciences for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to provide a foundation for understanding the history, resources, development, and government of California and the United States of America. Existing law also specifies coursework to be completed by pupils in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a high school diploma of graduation, including a one-semester course in American government and civics.

*Existing law establishes the Instructional Quality Commission, and requires the commission, among other duties, to ensure that specified historical documents are incorporated into the history-social science framework when it is revised.*

This bill, commencing with the 2014–15 school year, would require instruction in the social sciences in grade 8 and in any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, and the one-semester course in American government and civics that is required for high school graduation, to include *would also require the commission to encourage* a voter education component, providing instruction in how to register and cast votes in local, state,

and federal elections, and how to use the voter information pamphlet and other materials to become an informed voter, *to be included in American Government and civics courses when the history-social science framework is revised.* ~~To the extent that these requirements would impose new duties on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.~~

The bill would require the State Department of Education, on or before July 1, 2014, to develop and adopt a model curriculum framework for the voter education component in social studies classes to be implemented, pursuant to the bill, commencing with the 2014–15 school year.

~~(2) 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-no.*

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

- 1     SECTION 1. *Section 33540 of the Education Code is amended*
- 2     *to read:*
- 3     33540. (a) ~~The State Board of Education~~ *state board* and the
- 4     department shall request that the commission review and revise,
- 5     as necessary, the course requirements in the history-social science
- 6     framework developed by the History-Social Science Curriculum
- 7     Framework and Criteria Committee of the state board to ensure
- 8     that minimum standards for courses in American government and
- 9     civics include sufficient attention to teaching pupils how to interact,
- 10    in a practical manner, with state and local governmental agencies
- 11    and representatives to solve problems and to petition for changes
- 12    in laws and procedures.
- 13    (b) When the history-social science framework is revised as
- 14    required by law, the commission shall ~~ensure~~ *do both of the*
- 15    *following: ensure*
- 16    (1) *Encourage a voter education component to be included in*
- 17    *the American Government and civics course that includes*

1 *instruction on how to register and cast votes in local, state, and*  
2 *federal elections, and how to use the voter information pamphlet*  
3 *and other materials to become an informed voter.*

4 (2) *Ensure* that the following historical documents are  
5 incorporated into the framework, as appropriate:

6 (1)

7 (A) The Declaration of Independence.

8 (2)

9 (B) The United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.

10 (3)

11 (C) The Federalist Papers.

12 (4)

13 (D) The Emancipation Proclamation.

14 (5)

15 (E) The Gettysburg Address.

16 (6)

17 (F) George Washington's Farewell Address.

18 ~~SECTION 1. Section 51220 of the Education Code is amended~~  
19 ~~to read:~~

20 ~~51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,~~  
21 ~~inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:~~

22 (a) ~~English, including knowledge of and appreciation for~~  
23 ~~literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,~~  
24 ~~listening, and speaking.~~

25 (b) ~~Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of~~  
26 ~~anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,~~  
27 ~~psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the~~  
28 ~~pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding~~  
29 ~~the history, resources, development, and government of California~~  
30 ~~and the United States of America; instruction in our American~~  
31 ~~legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice~~  
32 ~~systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal~~  
33 ~~and civil law and the State and Federal Constitutions; in grade 8~~  
34 ~~and in any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, commencing with the~~  
35 ~~2014-15 school year, a voter education component providing~~  
36 ~~instruction in how to register and cast votes in local, state, and~~  
37 ~~federal elections, and how to use the voter information pamphlet~~  
38 ~~and other materials to become an informed voter; the development~~  
39 ~~of the American economic system, including the role of the~~  
40 ~~entrepreneur and labor; the relations of persons to their human and~~

- 1 natural environment; eastern and western cultures and civilizations;  
2 human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the  
3 inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust, and  
4 contemporary issues.
- 5 (e) Foreign language or languages, beginning not later than  
6 grade 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,  
7 reading, and writing the particular language.
- 8 (d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities  
9 that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as  
10 required by Section 51222.
- 11 (e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with  
12 emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific  
13 investigation and on the place of humans in ecological systems,  
14 and with appropriate applications of the interrelation and  
15 interdependence of the sciences.
- 16 (f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop  
17 mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into  
18 problem-solving procedures.
- 19 (g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,  
20 and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic  
21 appreciation and the skills of creative expression.
- 22 (h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer  
23 and homemaking education, industrial arts, general business  
24 education, or general agriculture.
- 25 (i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the  
26 purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the  
27 occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the  
28 personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant  
29 to the career desires and needs of the pupils.
- 30 (j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a  
31 knowledge of the provisions of the Vehicle Code and other laws  
32 of this state relating to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper  
33 acceptance of personal responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation  
34 of the causes, seriousness and consequences of traffic accidents,  
35 and to develop the knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe  
36 operation of motor vehicles. A course in automobile driver  
37 education shall include education in the safe operation of  
38 motorcycles.
- 39 (k) Other studies as may be prescribed by the governing board.

1 ~~SEC. 2.—~~ Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as amended by  
2 Section 3 of Chapter 621 of the Statutes of 2011, is amended to  
3 read:

4 ~~51225.3.—~~ (a) ~~A pupil shall complete all of the following while~~  
5 ~~in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of~~  
6 ~~graduation from high school:~~

7 ~~(1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects~~  
8 ~~specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless~~  
9 ~~otherwise specified:~~

10 ~~(A) Three courses in English.~~

11 ~~(B) Two courses in mathematics.~~

12 ~~(C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical~~  
13 ~~sciences.~~

14 ~~(D) Three courses in social studies, including United States~~  
15 ~~history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a~~  
16 ~~one-semester course in American government and civics, including,~~  
17 ~~commencing with the 2014–15 school year, a voter education~~  
18 ~~component providing instruction in how to register and cast votes~~  
19 ~~in local, state, and federal elections, and how to use the voter~~  
20 ~~information pamphlet and other materials to become an informed~~  
21 ~~voter; and a one-semester course in economics.~~

22 ~~(E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,~~  
23 ~~or, commencing with the 2012–13 school year, career technical~~  
24 ~~education.~~

25 ~~(i) For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this~~  
26 ~~subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be~~  
27 ~~deemed a course in foreign language.~~

28 ~~(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career~~  
29 ~~technical education” means a course in a district-operated career~~  
30 ~~technical education program that is aligned to the career technical~~  
31 ~~model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state~~  
32 ~~board, including courses through a regional occupational center~~  
33 ~~or program operated by a county superintendent of schools or~~  
34 ~~pursuant to a joint powers agreement.~~

35 ~~(iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school~~  
36 ~~district that currently does not offer career technical education~~  
37 ~~courses to start new career technical education programs for~~  
38 ~~purposes of this section.~~

39 ~~(iv) If a school district or county office of education elects to~~  
40 ~~allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement~~

1 imposed by this subparagraph, the governing board of the school  
2 district or county office of education, before offering that  
3 alternative to pupils, shall notify parents, teachers, pupils, and the  
4 public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of  
5 all of the following:

6 ~~(I) The intent to offer career technical education courses to fulfill  
7 the graduation requirement specified in this subparagraph.~~

8 ~~(II) The impact that offering career technical education courses,  
9 pursuant to this subparagraph, will have on the availability of  
10 courses that meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the  
11 California State University and the University of California, and  
12 whether the career technical education courses to be offered  
13 pursuant to this subparagraph are approved to satisfy those  
14 eligibility requirements. If a school district elects to allow a career  
15 technical education course to satisfy the requirement imposed by  
16 this subparagraph, the school district shall comply with subdivision  
17 (m) of Section 48980.~~

18 ~~(III) The distinction, if any, between the high school graduation  
19 requirements of the school district or county office of education,  
20 and the eligibility requirements for admission to the California  
21 State University and the University of California.~~

22 ~~(F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been  
23 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.~~

24 ~~(2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing  
25 board of the school district.~~

26 ~~(b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,  
27 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means  
28 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may  
29 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,  
30 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,  
31 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses  
32 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,  
33 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a  
34 postsecondary educational institution. Requirements for graduation  
35 and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed  
36 course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the  
37 public.~~

38 ~~(c) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district shall exempt  
39 a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements  
40 adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition~~

1 to the statewide coursework requirements specified in this section  
2 if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the  
3 district from another school district or between high schools within  
4 the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is  
5 reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time  
6 to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for  
7 foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A school district shall  
8 notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an exemption pursuant  
9 to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the person holding the  
10 right to make educational decisions for the pupil, if any of the  
11 requirements that are waived will affect the pupil's ability to gain  
12 admission to a postsecondary educational institution and shall  
13 provide information about transfer opportunities available through  
14 the California Community Colleges.

15 ~~(d) On or before July 1, 2017, the department shall submit a~~  
16 ~~comprehensive report to the appropriate policy committees of the~~  
17 ~~Legislature on the addition of career technical education courses~~  
18 ~~to satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of~~  
19 ~~paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), including, but not limited to, the~~  
20 ~~following information:~~

21 ~~(1) A comparison of the pupil enrollment in career technical~~  
22 ~~education courses, foreign language courses, and visual and~~  
23 ~~performing arts courses for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,~~  
24 ~~inclusive, to the pupil enrollment in career technical education~~  
25 ~~courses, foreign language courses, and visual and performing arts~~  
26 ~~courses for the 2012–13 to 2016–17 school years, inclusive.~~

27 ~~(2) The reasons, reported by school districts, that pupils give~~  
28 ~~for choosing to enroll in a career technical education course to~~  
29 ~~satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph~~  
30 ~~(1) of subdivision (a).~~

31 ~~(3) The type and number of career technical education courses~~  
32 ~~that were conducted for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,~~  
33 ~~inclusive, compared to the type and number of career technical~~  
34 ~~education courses that were conducted for the 2012–13 to 2016–17~~  
35 ~~school years, inclusive.~~

36 ~~(4) The number of career technical education courses that~~  
37 ~~satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the~~  
38 ~~University of California or the California State University.~~

39 ~~(5) The extent to which the career technical education courses~~  
40 ~~chosen by pupils are aligned with the California Career Technical~~

1 Education Standards, and prepare pupils for employment, advanced  
2 training, and postsecondary education:

3 ~~(6) The number of career technical education courses that also~~  
4 ~~satisfy the visual and performing arts requirement, and the number~~  
5 ~~of career technical education courses that also satisfy the foreign~~  
6 ~~language requirement.~~

7 ~~(7) Annual pupil dropout and graduation rates for the 2011–12~~  
8 ~~to 2014–15 school years, inclusive.~~

9 ~~(e) For purposes of completing the report described in~~  
10 ~~subdivision (d), the Superintendent may use existing state resources~~  
11 ~~and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not available or~~  
12 ~~sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept grants,~~  
13 ~~and receive donations and other financial support from public or~~  
14 ~~private sources for purposes of this section.~~

15 ~~(f) For purposes of completing the report described in~~  
16 ~~subdivision (d), the Superintendent may accept support, including,~~  
17 ~~but not limited to, financial and technical support, from high school~~  
18 ~~reform advocates, teachers, chamber organizations, industry~~  
19 ~~representatives, research centers, parents, and pupils.~~

20 ~~(g) This section shall become inoperative on the earlier of the~~  
21 ~~following two dates:~~

22 ~~(1) On July 1, immediately following the first fiscal year after~~  
23 ~~the enactment of the act that adds this paragraph in which the~~  
24 ~~number of career technical education courses that, as determined~~  
25 ~~by the department, satisfy the foreign language requirement for~~  
26 ~~admission to the California State University and the University of~~  
27 ~~California is at least twice the number of career technical education~~  
28 ~~courses that meet these admission requirements as of January 1,~~  
29 ~~2012. This section shall be repealed on the following January 1,~~  
30 ~~unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before~~  
31 ~~that date, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes~~  
32 ~~inoperative and is repealed. It is the intent of the Legislature that~~  
33 ~~new career technical education courses that satisfy the foreign~~  
34 ~~language requirement for admission to the California State~~  
35 ~~University and the University of California focus on world~~  
36 ~~languages aligned with career preparation, emphasizing real-world~~  
37 ~~application and technical content in related career and technical~~  
38 ~~education courses.~~

39 ~~(2) On July 1, 2017, and, as of January 1, 2018, is repealed,~~  
40 ~~unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before~~



1 January 1, 2018, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes  
2 inoperative and is repealed.

3 ~~SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as added by~~  
4 ~~Section 4 of Chapter 621 of the Statutes of 2011, is amended to~~  
5 ~~read:~~

6 ~~51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while~~  
7 ~~in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of~~  
8 ~~graduation from high school:~~

9 ~~(1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects~~  
10 ~~specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless~~  
11 ~~otherwise specified:~~

12 ~~(A) Three courses in English.~~

13 ~~(B) Two courses in mathematics.~~

14 ~~(C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical~~  
15 ~~sciences.~~

16 ~~(D) Three courses in social studies, including United States~~  
17 ~~history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a~~  
18 ~~one-semester course in American government and civics, including,~~  
19 ~~commencing with the 2014-15 school year, a voter education~~  
20 ~~component providing instruction in how to register and cast votes~~  
21 ~~in local, state, and federal elections, and how to use the voter~~  
22 ~~information pamphlet and other materials to become an informed~~  
23 ~~voter; and a one-semester course in economics.~~

24 ~~(E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.~~  
25 ~~For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this~~  
26 ~~subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be~~  
27 ~~deemed a course in foreign language.~~

28 ~~(F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been~~  
29 ~~exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.~~

30 ~~(2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing~~  
31 ~~board of the school district.~~

32 ~~(b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,~~  
33 ~~administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means~~  
34 ~~for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may~~  
35 ~~include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,~~  
36 ~~supervised work experience or other outside school experience,~~  
37 ~~career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses~~  
38 ~~offered by regional occupational centers or programs,~~  
39 ~~interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a~~  
40 ~~postsecondary educational institution. Requirements for graduation~~

1 and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed  
2 course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the  
3 public.

4 (e) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district shall exempt  
5 a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements  
6 adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition  
7 to the statewide coursework requirements specified in this section  
8 if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the  
9 district from another school district or between high schools within  
10 the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is  
11 reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time  
12 to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for  
13 foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A school district shall  
14 notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an exemption pursuant  
15 to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the person holding the  
16 right to make educational decisions for the pupil, if any of the  
17 requirements that are waived will affect the pupil's ability to gain  
18 admission to a postsecondary educational institution and shall  
19 provide information about transfer opportunities available through  
20 the California Community Colleges.

21 (d) If a pupil completed a career technical education course that  
22 met the requirements of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of  
23 subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding  
24 this section, before the inoperative date of that section, that course  
25 shall be deemed to fulfill the requirements of subparagraph (E) of  
26 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of this section.

27 (e) This section shall become operative upon the date that  
28 Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding this section,  
29 becomes inoperative.

30 SEC. 4. Section 51226.8 is added to the Education Code, to  
31 read:

32 51226.8. On or before July 1, 2014, the department shall  
33 develop and adopt a model curriculum framework for a voter  
34 education component in social studies classes to be implemented  
35 commencing with the 2014-15 school year in accordance with  
36 subdivision (b) of Section 51220 and subparagraph (D) of  
37 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3.

38 SEC. 5. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
39 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
40 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made

1 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
2 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

O