

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 815**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez**

February 21, 2013

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An act to amend Section 52372.5 of the Education Code, relating to career technical education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 815, as introduced, Chávez. Career technical education: linked learning programs.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to submit a report to the Legislature and the Governor no later than December 1, 2009, that explores the feasibility of expanding and establishing linked learning programs, as defined, in California.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 52372.5 of the Education Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 52372.5. (a) For purposes of this section, a “linked learning
- 4 program” is a program that is all of the following:
- 5 (1) A multiyear, comprehensive high school program of
- 6 integrated academic and technical study that is organized around
- 7 a broad theme, interest area, or industry sector, including, but not
- 8 necessarily limited to, the industry sectors identified in the model
- 9 standards adopted by the state board pursuant to Section 51226.

1 (2) A program that ensures that all pupils have curriculum  
2 choices that will prepare them for career entry and a full range of  
3 postsecondary options, including two- and four-year college,  
4 apprenticeship, and formal employment training.

5 (3) A program that is comprised, at a minimum, of the following  
6 components:

7 (A) An integrated core curriculum that meets the eligibility  
8 requirements for admission to the University of California and the  
9 California State University and is delivered through project-based  
10 learning and other engaging instructional strategies that  
11 intentionally bring real-world context and relevance to the  
12 curriculum where broad themes, interest areas, and career technical  
13 education are emphasized.

14 (B) An integrated technical core of a sequence of at least four  
15 related courses, that may reflect career technical education  
16 standards-based courses, that provide pupils with career skills, that  
17 are aligned to and underscore academic principles, and to the extent  
18 possible fulfill the academic core requirements listed in  
19 subparagraph (A).

20 (C) A series of work-based learning opportunities that begin  
21 with mentoring and job shadowing and evolve into intensive  
22 internships, school-based enterprises, or virtual apprenticeships.

23 (D) Support services, including supplemental instruction in  
24 reading and mathematics, that help pupils master the advanced  
25 academic and technical content that is necessary for success in  
26 college and career.

27 (b) The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Office of the  
28 Secretary for Education, the California Community Colleges, the  
29 University of California, the California State University, the  
30 Employment Development Department, both houses of the  
31 California Legislature, teachers, chamber organizations, industry  
32 representatives, research centers, parents, school administrators,  
33 representatives of regional occupational centers and programs,  
34 community-based organizations, labor organizations, and others  
35 deemed appropriate by the Superintendent, shall develop a report  
36 that explores the feasibility of establishing and expanding  
37 additional linked learning programs in California, including the  
38 costs and merits associated with expansion of these programs.  
39 Linked learning programs created for high schools may include,  
40 but are not limited to, California partnership academies, regional

1 occupational centers and programs, charter schools, academies,  
2 small learning communities, and other career-themed small schools.

3 (c) The report described in subdivision (b) shall do all of the  
4 following:

5 (1) Identify regulations, policies, and practices that need to be  
6 added, deleted, or amended in order to promote the development  
7 and expansion of linked learning programs.

8 (2) Set forth a reasonable timeline for the development and  
9 expansion of linked learning programs.

10 (3) Include ~~at least~~ all of the following components, *at a*  
11 *minimum*:

12 (A) Assessment of the current capacity of the department for  
13 the purpose of maximizing the development of these programs.

14 (B) ~~Identifying~~ *Identification of* the possible roles and  
15 responsibilities of other departments or agencies to assist in  
16 developing or expanding linked learning programs.

17 (C) An assessment of the appropriateness of school districts  
18 fulfilling the requirements set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b) of  
19 Section 51228 by developing industry-focused linked learning  
20 programs, including those described in this section.

21 (D) Methods for developing and sharing models of integrated  
22 curriculum and instruction.

23 (E) Strategies for increasing the course options and instructional  
24 time for pupils in high school.

25 (F) Plans for increasing opportunities for high-quality learning  
26 based on real-world applications in industry and careers.

27 (G) Methods for improving alignment of curriculum between  
28 middle schools and high schools with career instruction,  
29 exploration, and counseling for middle school pupils.

30 (H) Methods for improving coordination and articulation  
31 between high schools and postsecondary institutions, including,  
32 but not limited to, California Community Colleges, the California  
33 State University, and the University of California.

34 (I) Recommendations for increasing the supply of teachers who  
35 can teach effectively in a linked learning setting that aims to  
36 prepare pupils for a full range of postsecondary options. Necessary  
37 specialized skills include, but are not limited to, the abilities to  
38 design interdisciplinary projects and use project-based learning as  
39 an instructional strategy, work with other teachers in a  
40 team-teaching arrangement, develop curriculum that effectively

1 integrates academic and technical content, design and utilize  
2 high-quality work-based learning to reinforce lessons in both  
3 academic and technical courses, and develop authentic pupil  
4 assessments.

5 (J) Recommendations for increasing the supply of schoolsite  
6 and district administrators who can effectively create and manage  
7 schools that are implementing one or more industry-focused linked  
8 learning programs. Necessary specialized skills include, but are  
9 not limited to, the abilities to develop and sustain partnerships with  
10 industry partners, recruit and retain uniquely qualified teachers,  
11 guide development of integrated curriculum, understand needs for  
12 and provide teacher professional development, guide development  
13 of comprehensive guidance systems that integrate college advising  
14 and career counseling, guide development of a coordinated and  
15 sequenced work-based learning component, and utilize data to  
16 assess pupil readiness for college and career.

17 (K) Recommendations for supporting regional coalitions in  
18 planning and developing programs.

19 (L) Evaluation of current linked learning programs, including  
20 partnership academies, regional occupational centers or programs,  
21 and postsecondary linked learning programs, including middle  
22 colleges and early college models.

23 (M) Recommendations for increasing and improving in-school  
24 support services.

25 (N) Recommendations for incorporating new measures into the  
26 state's accountability system to better assess the results of these  
27 linked learning programs.

28 (O) Assessment of the budgetary implications of offering all  
29 pupils access to these linked learning programs.

30 (d) For purposes of completing the report described in  
31 subdivision (b), the Superintendent is authorized to use existing  
32 state resources and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not  
33 available or sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept  
34 grants and receive donations, and other financial support from  
35 public or private sources for purposes of this section.

36 (e) In developing the report, the Superintendent may accept  
37 support including, but not necessarily limited to, financial and  
38 technical support, from high school reform advocates, teachers,  
39 chamber organizations, industry representatives, research centers,  
40 parents, and pupils.

1 (f) The Superintendent shall report to the Legislature as to the  
2 status of completing the report and any preliminary  
3 recommendations no later than July 1, 2009.

4 (g) The Superintendent shall submit a final report with  
5 recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor no later than  
6 December 1, 2009.

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