

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1764

Introduced by Assembly Members Olsen and Buchanan

February 14, 2014

An act to amend Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to school curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1764, as introduced, Olsen. School curriculum: mathematics: computer science.

Existing law requires each pupil completing grade 12 to satisfy certain requirements as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school. These requirements include the successful passage of the high school exit examination and the completion of designated coursework in grades 9 to 12, inclusive. The coursework requirements include the completion of 2 courses in mathematics. Existing law authorizes the governing board of a school district to adopt additional coursework requirements.

This bill would authorize the governing board of a school district that requires more than 2 courses in mathematics to award a pupil up to one mathematics course credit for successfully completing an approved computer science course, as provided. The bill would prohibit the governing board of the school district from awarding the pupil mathematics course credit for an approved computer science course if the governing board of the school district also awards the pupil credit for that course in other specified subjects.

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 51225.3 of the Education Code, as
2 amended by Section 2 of Chapter 324 of the Statutes of 2013, is
3 amended to 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) (i) Two courses in mathematics. *If the governing board of*
12 *a school district requires more than two courses in mathematics*
13 *for graduation, the governing board of the school district may*
14 *award a pupil up to one mathematics course credit for successfully*
15 *completing a “category C” approved computer science course.*
16 *The governing board of the school district shall not award a pupil*
17 *mathematics course credit for a “category C” approved computer*
18 *science course if the governing board of the school district also*
19 *awards the pupil credit for that course under subparagraph (C)*
20 *or (E).*

21 (ii) *For purposes of this paragraph, “category C” refers to the*
22 *“A-G” admission requirements for the California State University*
23 *and the University of California.*

24 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
25 sciences.

26 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
27 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
28 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
29 one-semester course in economics.

30 (E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,
31 or, commencing with the 2012–13 school year, career technical
32 education.

33 (i) For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
34 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
35 deemed a course in foreign language.

36 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career
37 technical education” means a course in a district-operated career
38 technical education program that is aligned to the career technical

1 model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state
2 board, including courses through a regional occupational center
3 or program operated by a county superintendent of schools or
4 pursuant to a joint powers agreement.

5 (iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school
6 district that currently does not offer career technical education
7 courses to start new career technical education programs for
8 purposes of this section.

9 (iv) If a school district or county office of education elects to
10 allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement
11 imposed by this subparagraph, the governing board of the school
12 district or county office of education, before offering that
13 alternative to pupils, shall notify parents, teachers, pupils, and the
14 public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of
15 all of the following:

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

18 (II) The impact that offering career technical education courses,
19 pursuant to this subparagraph, will have on the availability of
20 courses that meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the
21 California State University and the University of California, and
22 whether the career technical education courses to be offered
23 pursuant to this subparagraph are approved to satisfy those
24 eligibility requirements. If a school district elects to allow a career
25 technical education course to satisfy the requirement imposed by
26 this subparagraph, the school district shall comply with subdivision
27 (m) of Section 48980.

28 (III) The distinction, if any, between the high school graduation
29 requirements of the school district or county office of education,
30 and the eligibility requirements for admission to the California
31 State University and the University of California.

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

34 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
35 board of the school district.

36 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
37 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
38 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may
39 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
40 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,

1 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
2 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
3 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
4 postsecondary educational institution. Requirements for graduation
5 and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed
6 course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the
7 public.

8 (c) On or before July 1, 2017, the department shall submit a
9 comprehensive report to the appropriate policy committees of the
10 Legislature on the addition of career technical education courses
11 to satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of
12 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), including, but not limited to, the
13 following information:

14 (1) A comparison of the pupil enrollment in career technical
15 education courses, foreign language courses, and visual and
16 performing arts courses for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,
17 inclusive, to the pupil enrollment in career technical education
18 courses, foreign language courses, and visual and performing arts
19 courses for the 2012–13 to 2016–17 school years, inclusive.

20 (2) The reasons, reported by school districts, that pupils give
21 for choosing to enroll in a career technical education course to
22 satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph
23 (1) of subdivision (a).

24 (3) The type and number of career technical education courses
25 that were conducted for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,
26 inclusive, compared to the type and number of career technical
27 education courses that were conducted for the 2012–13 to 2016–17
28 school years, inclusive.

29 (4) The number of career technical education courses that
30 satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the
31 University of California or the California State University.

32 (5) The extent to which the career technical education courses
33 chosen by pupils are aligned with the California Career Technical
34 Education Standards, and prepare pupils for employment, advanced
35 training, and postsecondary education.

36 (6) The number of career technical education courses that also
37 satisfy the visual and performing arts requirement, and the number
38 of career technical education courses that also satisfy the foreign
39 language requirement.

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

3 (d) For purposes of completing the report described in
4 subdivision (c), the Superintendent may use existing state resources
5 and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not available or
6 sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept grants,
7 and receive donations and other financial support from public or
8 private sources for purposes of this section.

9 (e) For purposes of completing the report described in
10 subdivision (c), the Superintendent may accept support, including,
11 but not limited to, financial and technical support, from high school
12 reform advocates, teachers, chamber organizations, industry
13 representatives, research centers, parents, and pupils.

14 (f) This section shall become inoperative on the earlier of the
15 following two dates:

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

33 (2) On July 1, 2017, and, as of January 1, 2018, is repealed,
34 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before
35 January 1, 2018, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes
36 inoperative and is repealed.

37 SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as amended
38 by Section 3 of Chapter 324 of the Statutes of 2013, is amended
39 to read:

1 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
2 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
3 graduation from high school:

4 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
5 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
6 otherwise specified:

7 (A) Three courses in English.

8 (B) (i) Two courses in mathematics. *If the governing board of*
9 *a school district requires more than two courses in mathematics*
10 *for graduation, the governing board of the school district may*
11 *award a pupil up to one mathematics course credit for successfully*
12 *completing a “category C” approved computer science course.*
13 *The governing board of the school district shall not award a pupil*
14 *mathematics course credit for a “category C” approved computer*
15 *science course if the governing board of the school district also*
16 *awards the pupil credit for that course under subparagraph (C)*
17 *or (E).*

18 (ii) *For purposes of this subparagraph, “category C” refers to*
19 *the “A-G” admission requirements for the California State*
20 *University and the University of California.*

21 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
22 sciences.

23 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
24 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
25 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
26 one-semester course in economics.

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

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

33 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
34 board of the school district.

35 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
36 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
37 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may
38 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
39 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
40 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses

1 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
2 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
3 postsecondary educational institution. Requirements for graduation
4 and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed
5 course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the
6 public.

7 (c) If a pupil completed a career technical education course that
8 met the requirements of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of
9 subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding
10 this section, before the inoperative date of that section, that course
11 shall be deemed to fulfill the requirements of subparagraph (E) of
12 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of this section.

13 (d) This section shall become operative upon the date that
14 Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding this section,
15 becomes inoperative.