

**Introduced by Senator Block**February 22, 2013

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 696, as introduced, Block. School accountability: Academic Performance Index: civics.

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. Existing law requires the Superintendent, on or before October 1, 2013, to report to the Legislature and recommend to the state board for adoption 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.

This bill would require the Superintendent, on or before July 1, 2014, to report to the Legislature and recommend to the state board for adoption a project-based assessment, as specified, through the system of public school accountability, to measure the civics learning objectives contained in the course of study for grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and for grades 7 to 12, inclusive. The bill would require the civics learning objectives to include specified elements.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 52052.9 of the Education Code is  
2 amended to read:

3 52052.9. (a) On or before October 1, 2013, the Superintendent  
4 shall report to the Legislature and recommend to the state board  
5 for adoption a method or methods for increasing the emphasis on  
6 pupil mastery of standards in science and social science through  
7 the system of public school accountability or by other means.

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

14 (c) *On or before July 1, 2014, the Superintendent shall report*  
15 *to the Legislature, and recommend to the state board for adoption,*  
16 *a project-based assessment, through the system of public school*  
17 *accountability, to measure the civics learning objectives contained*  
18 *in the course of study for grades 1 to 6, inclusive, adopted pursuant*  
19 *to subdivision (c) of Section 51210 and the course of study for*  
20 *grades 7 to 12, inclusive, adopted pursuant to subdivision (b) of*  
21 *Section 51220. These civics learning objectives shall include an*  
22 *understanding of the relevance of public policy, the structure of*  
23 *the federal, state, and local governments, and both the California*  
24 *and United States Constitutions. The project-based assessment*  
25 *shall use an approach that engages pupils in learning essential*  
26 *knowledge and skills through a pupil-influenced inquiry process*  
27 *structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully*  
28 *designed projects and tasks.*