

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 711

Introduced by Assembly Member Santiago

February 25, 2015

An act to amend Section 60605.3 of the Education Code, relating to school curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 711, as introduced, Santiago. School curriculum: foreign languages.

Existing law requires the State Board of Education, on or before June 1, 2009, to adopt content standards for teaching foreign languages in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, pursuant to recommendations developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

This bill would require the state board, on or before January 1, 2017, to adopt specified national content standards for teaching foreign languages in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, pursuant to recommendations developed by the Superintendent.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The national World-Readiness Standards for Learning
- 4 Languages are in the process of being published. Those standards
- 5 reflect new research on best practices for teaching languages and
- 6 cultures and offer a sound vision for program goal setting, teaching

1 and facilitating learning, and assessing the standards pupils know
2 and applying that knowledge in global settings. Those standards
3 have now been adopted in total or with minor modifications in 40
4 states.

5 (b) The national World-Readiness Standards for Learning
6 Languages are based on the original national standards, published in
7 1996, that stood the test of time in providing common language
8 and descriptors for world languages and cultures education.

9 (c) Pupils will benefit from the clarity that will arise from
10 following the widely adopted and updated national standards.
11 World language and culture educators in California, as of January
12 1, 2016, need to navigate between national and state standards as
13 they read and research professional documents, collaborate with
14 other world language and culture educators from other states and
15 nations, and engage in other professional standards-based work,
16 including national assessments for assessing learners proficiency
17 in world languages and cultures.

18 (d) If the World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages
19 are adopted by the State Board of Education by June 1, 2017, the
20 standards and framework could be developed in tandem, rather
21 than revising the standards adopted as of January 1, 2016, to reflect
22 new framework and research, resulting in significant cost savings
23 for the state.

24 (e) The national World-Readiness Standards for Learning
25 Languages provide pupils friendly and clearly stated functional
26 learning goals and assessment tasks through a series of “I can”
27 statements based on predictable descriptors of language
28 development.

29 SEC. 2. Section 60605.3 of the Education Code is amended to
30 read:

31 60605.3. (a) On or before June 1, ~~2009~~, 2017, the ~~State Board~~
32 ~~of Education~~ *state board* shall adopt *national* content standards in
33 *accordance with the World-Readiness Standards for Learning*
34 *Languages, published, in 2015, by the American Council for the*
35 *Teaching of Foreign Languages*, pursuant to recommendations
36 developed by the ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction,~~
37 *Superintendent*, for teaching foreign languages in kindergarten
38 and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

1 (b) The content standards shall support the goals of Section
2 51212 and subdivision (c) of Section 51220 by including all of the
3 following:

4 (1) A summary of the language goals which recognizes that
5 instruction may begin in elementary or secondary school.

6 (2) A description of individual language skills that should be
7 taught and attained at each level.

8 (3) Course content that is aligned with findings from research
9 on second language acquisition and education.

10 (4) Course content that is aligned with the admission
11 requirements for the California State University and the University
12 of California.

13 (c) The content standards may be used by school districts to
14 develop language programs and course assessments but are not
15 mandatory.