

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1258

Introduced by Assembly Member Chau

February 27, 2015

An act to add and repeal Chapter 13.5 (commencing with Section 52975) of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to elementary and secondary education, ~~and making an appropriation therefor.~~ *education.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1258, as amended, Chau. Elementary and secondary education: Computer Science Education Grant Pilot Program.

Existing law establishes a system of public elementary and secondary schools in this state, and authorizes school districts and other local educational agencies to provide instruction to pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive. Existing law establishes a course of study for pupils in these grades.

This bill would establish the Computer Science Education Grant Pilot Program under the administration of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Under the program, eligible school districts could apply to receive one-year grants under either or both of the 2 competitive grant pilot programs. One pilot program, the Computer Science Start-Up Courses Grant Pilot Program, would provide grants to establish and maintain computer science courses in underserved ~~areas~~, *areas and among pupils from groups historically underrepresented in the field of*

computer science, and the other grant pilot program, the Computer Science Educator Training Grant Pilot Program, would provide professional development for educators to teach computer science, either as a stand-alone course or as integrated into other courses.

The bill would authorize any school district in the state to apply for participation in the pilot programs. The bill would specify minimum criteria to be applied by the Superintendent in evaluating applicant school districts for possible participation in the pilot programs, and authorize the Superintendent to convene an advisory group of computer science experts to discuss and refine these criteria, as specified.

The bill would establish the Computer Science Education Grant Matching Account in the State Treasury. The bill would authorize the State Treasury to receive, and deposit into the account, any gifts, grants, or donations received for purposes of the bill from the federal government or private persons or entities. *The bill would require school districts receiving grants under the bill to provide local matching resources, which may include in-kind donations, constituting an amount equaling the amount that would be allocated to the school district from the Computer Science Education Grant Matching Account.* The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that no moneys from the state General Fund be used to fund the grant pilot programs established by the bill.

The bill would ~~continuously appropriate~~ *provide that* the funds deposited in the account *would be available, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act or in another statute,* to the Superintendent for purposes of the bill, provided that the Superintendent certifies, in writing, to the Director of Finance that there are sufficient funds, *as defined,* in the account to implement the bill. The bill would limit expenditures from the account to cover administrative costs to no more than ~~10%~~ 5% of the allocations made from the account in any fiscal year. The bill would authorize the Superintendent to refund to the donor all or a portion of any gift, grant, or donation made to the account by that donor if the funds received from that donor have not been encumbered because there are surplus funds in the account or because this provision has not become operative.

The bill would require the Superintendent to submit an annual report, containing specified data about the grant program, to the Governor and the Legislature on or before January 10, 2018, and on or before January 10 in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

The provisions of the bill would become inoperative on July 1, 2021, and would be repealed as of January 1, 2022.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 13.5 (commencing with Section 52975)
2 is added to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code,
3 to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 13.5. COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION GRANT PILOT
6 PROGRAM

7
8 Article 1. General Provisions
9

10 52975. (a) The Superintendent shall establish a public-private
11 computer science education grant pilot program through which a
12 participating school district may receive funding to establish and
13 maintain computer science courses and provide professional
14 development for educators to teach computer science, either as a
15 stand-alone course or as integrated into other courses. Any school
16 district may apply for participation in this grant pilot program. The
17 grant pilot program shall consist of two parts, the Computer
18 Science Start-Up Courses Grant Pilot Program and the Computer
19 Science Educator Training Grant Pilot Program, and school districts
20 may apply for participation in either or both of those two pilot
21 programs.

22 (b) The Superintendent shall provide notice of this pilot program
23 to all school districts throughout the state, and encourage them to
24 apply for participation in this grant pilot program.

25 (c) The Superintendent shall award one-year grants to school
26 districts under this chapter to applicants he or she deems to be
27 eligible. A school district that receives a grant under this chapter
28 may apply for a grant in a subsequent year, but grants under this
29 chapter shall not be automatically renewed for an additional year.
30 The Superintendent shall not award any grant under this chapter
31 unless the Superintendent determines that there are sufficient
32 moneys in the Computer Science Education Grant Matching
33 Account established under Article 3 (commencing with Section

52978) to fund that grant. In order to be deemed eligible for the grant pilot program, a school district, at a minimum, shall meet all of the following criteria:

(1) Demonstrate engaged and committed leadership in support of introducing pupils who would not otherwise have these opportunities to computer science.

(2) Demonstrate a plan to engage these pupils with the subject matter of computer science.

(3) Demonstrate that school district staff are appropriately trained to carry out the plan.

(4) Demonstrate the capacity to maximize the use of grant resources by addressing the availability of appropriate physical space and technology, projected enrollment, and other specific requirements set forth by the Superintendent.

(5) Demonstrate a history of successful partnerships within the community and partner support for computer science. Partnership support may include, but is not necessarily limited to, supplying materials or technology, instruction support, internships, mentorships, and apprenticeships.

(6) Demonstrate the capacity to continue in the school years succeeding the initial grant year.

(d) The Superintendent may convene an advisory group of computer science experts to discuss and refine the eligibility criteria listed in subdivision (c). For purposes of this subdivision, the Superintendent may use the same group of computer science experts selected pursuant to Section 60605.4.

52975.5. This chapter shall become inoperative on July 1, 2021, and, as of January 1, 2022, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2022, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

Article 2. Computer Science Start-Up Courses Grant and Computer Science Educator Training Grant Pilot Programs

52976. (a) The Computer Science Start-up Courses Grant Pilot Program is a competitive grant program that is intended to support innovative ways to introduce pupils in underserved areas *and pupils from groups historically underrepresented in the field of computer science* who would not otherwise have those opportunities to

1 computer science and inspire them to enter computer science
2 careers.

3 (b) In awarding grants under this section, the Superintendent
4 shall give priority to applicant school districts with higher
5 percentages of unduplicated pupils, as defined in Section 42238.02,
6 and, as much as feasible, shall award grants to school districts that
7 collectively represent the geographic and socioeconomic diversity
8 of this state. An applicant for a grant under this section shall submit
9 a specific plan for an introductory computer science course
10 designed to be of maximum value in meeting the particular needs
11 of the pupils of that school ~~district~~. *district, including pupils from*
12 *groups historically underrepresented in the field of computer*
13 *science.*

14 (c) *Grant funds awarded under this section may be used for*
15 *one-time purposes associated with the costs of establishing or*
16 *expanding computer science courses, including teacher*
17 *recruitment, professional development, instructional materials,*
18 *laboratory supplies and equipment, and facilities remodeling.*

19 (d) *The grant application for this program shall be on a form*
20 *developed by the Superintendent and shall include, at a minimum,*
21 *an itemized budget for the one-time use of the grant funds, an*
22 *identification of local matching resources constituting an amount*
23 *equaling the amount that would be allocated to the school district*
24 *from the Computer Science Education Grant Matching Account*
25 *established by Section 52978, and an agreement by the grant*
26 *recipient to provide the Superintendent the data needed to complete*
27 *the report required by Section 52979.*

28 52977. (a) The Computer Science Educator Training Grant
29 Pilot Program is intended to support professional development for
30 educators to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to teach
31 computer science, either as a stand-alone course or as integrated
32 into other courses. The Superintendent shall award training grants,
33 on a competitive basis, to ~~eligible~~ *school districts for the support*
34 *of educators employed by applicant school districts.*

35 (b) In awarding grants under this section, the Superintendent
36 shall give priority to applicant school districts with higher
37 percentages of unduplicated pupils, as defined in Section 42238.02,
38 and, as much as feasible, shall award grants to school districts that
39 collectively represent the geographic and socioeconomic diversity
40 of this state. An applicant for a grant under this section shall submit

1 a specific ~~plan~~ *plan*, developed in consultation with teachers
2 employed by the applicant school district, for professional
3 development for educators employed by that school district to
4 acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to teach computer
5 science to that school district's pupils, either as a stand-alone
6 course or as integrated into other courses. Grant funds awarded
7 under this section shall be allocated to fund professional
8 development related to computer science education for the
9 participating educators.

10 (c) *The grant application for this program shall be on a form*
11 *developed by the Superintendent and shall include, at a minimum,*
12 *an itemized budget for the one-time use of the grant funds, an*
13 *identification of local matching resources constituting an amount*
14 *equaling the amount that would be allocated to the school district*
15 *from the Computer Science Education Grant Matching Account*
16 *established by Section 52978, and an agreement by the grant*
17 *recipient to provide the Superintendent the data needed to complete*
18 *the report required by Section 52979.*

19
20 Article 3. Funding and Reporting
21

22 52978. (a) The Computer Science Education Grant Matching
23 Account is established in the State Treasury. This account shall
24 be used solely and exclusively for the pilot programs created in
25 this chapter. The purpose of the account is to provide matching
26 funds for the Computer Science Start-Up Courses Grant and the
27 Computer Science Educator Training Grant pilot programs
28 established under Article 2 (commencing with Section 52976).
29 Grants under this chapter, and related administrative costs, shall
30 be funded by a combination of funds from the account and
31 matching funds provided by a participating school district. *A school*
32 *district that receives a grant under this chapter shall provide local*
33 *matching resources, which may include in-kind donations,*
34 *constituting an amount equaling the amount that would be*
35 *allocated to the school district from the Computer Science*
36 *Education Grant Matching Account.* It is the intent of the
37 Legislature that no moneys from the state General Fund be used
38 to fund the grant pilot ~~program~~ *programs* established by this
39 chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the State Treasury is authorized to receive, and deposit into the account, any gifts, grants, or donations received for purposes of this chapter from the federal government or private persons or entities. Expenditures from the account, with respect to a particular grant, shall not exceed the amount of corresponding matching funds.

52978.5. (a) ~~Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, the~~ The funds deposited in the Computer Science Education Grant Matching Account shall be ~~continuously appropriated~~ *available, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act or in another statute*, to the Superintendent for purposes of funding the grants established under this chapter, covering related costs, and returning unencumbered funds to donors pursuant to subdivision (b). The administrative costs of the implementation of this chapter shall be kept to a minimum, and in no event shall expenditures from the account to cover administrative costs exceed ~~40~~ 5 percent of the allocations made from the account in any fiscal year.

(b) The Superintendent is authorized to refund to the donor all or a portion of any gift, grant, or donation made to the account by that donor if the funds received from the donor have not been encumbered because the Superintendent has determined that there are surplus funds in the account or because, pursuant to subdivision (c), this section has not become operative.

(c) This section shall not become operative unless and until the Superintendent certifies, in writing, to the Director of Finance that there are sufficient funds in the account to implement this chapter. *For purposes of this section, "sufficient funds" is defined as an amount sufficient to support at least two grants in one of the programs established by this chapter.*

52979. The Superintendent shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on the programs established under this chapter. This report shall be submitted on or before January 10, 2018, and on or before January 10 in 2019, 2020, and 2021, in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code. The report shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following data:

(a) The number of applicants annually.

(b) The number of participants annually.

1 ~~(c) The rate of compliance with academic and employment~~
2 ~~requirements:~~ *increase in the number of courses offered and*
3 *teachers trained in computer science as a result of the grants made*
4 *under this chapter.*

5 ~~(d) An assessment of the success rates for each participating~~
6 ~~school district.~~

7 *(d) (1) For the Computer Science Start-up Courses Grant Pilot*
8 *Program, the increase in the number of pupils, including*
9 *unduplicated pupils as defined pursuant to Section 42238.02 and*
10 *pupils from groups historically underrepresented in the field of*
11 *computer science, who have taken a computer science course, and*
12 *to the extent available, any increase in the number of pupils who*
13 *enroll or intend to enroll in computer science programs at*
14 *postsecondary educational institutions.*

15 *(2) For the Computer Science Educator Training Grant Pilot*
16 *Program, the increase in the number of pupils, including*
17 *unduplicated pupils as defined pursuant to Section 42238.02 and*
18 *pupils from groups historically underrepresented in the field of*
19 *computer science, who have taken a course with an educator*
20 *trained as a result of this program.*

21 (e) The amount of grant funds awarded each fiscal year,
22 classified by school district.