

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2072

Introduced by Assembly Member Chang
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baker, Brough, Chau, and Dodd)
(Coauthor: Senator Runner)

February 17, 2016

An act to add *and repeal* Article 7 (commencing with Section 51470) ~~to~~ of Chapter 3 of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to high school diplomas.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2072, as amended, Chang. High school diplomas: State Seal of STEM.

Existing law establishes the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma for the purpose of recognizing pupils who have mastered the high school curriculum. Existing law also establishes the State Seal of Biliteracy to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

This bill would establish a State Seal of STEM to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. The bill would establish criteria for the receipt of the State Seal of STEM, would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare and deliver to participating school districts an appropriate insignia to be affixed to pupil diplomas or transcripts, and would require participating school

districts to maintain appropriate records and affix the appropriate insignia to diplomas or transcripts of recipient pupils. *The bill would not become operative until after data from the statewide administration of specified state science assessments are available. The bill’s provisions would be repealed on January 1, 2025.*

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. Article 7 (commencing with Section 51470) is
2 added to Chapter 3 of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the
3 Education Code, to read:

4
5 Article 7. State Seal of STEM
6

7 51470. The State Seal of STEM is established to recognize
8 high school graduates who have attained ~~a high level of proficiency~~
9 in fields of study within the subjects of science, technology,
10 engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The State Seal of STEM
11 shall be awarded by the Superintendent. School district
12 participation in this program is voluntary.

13 51471. The purposes of the State Seal of STEM are as follows:

- 14 (a) To encourage pupils to study science, technology,
- 15 engineering, and mathematics.
- 16 (b) To certify ~~high~~ achievement within the STEM fields.
- 17 (c) To provide pupils with a tool to demonstrate STEM
- 18 competency to employers.
- 19 (d) To provide universities with a method to recognize and give
- 20 academic credit to applicants seeking admission.
- 21 (e) To prepare pupils with 21st century skills.
- 22 (f) To engage pupils in STEM learning at an early age.
- 23 (g) To prepare pupils for a job market increasingly in need of
- 24 individuals with STEM skills.

25 51472. The State Seal of STEM certifies ~~attainment of a high~~
26 ~~level of proficiency by that~~ a graduating high school pupil *has*
27 *attained proficiency* in STEM and ~~certifies that the graduate~~ meets
28 all of the following criteria:

- 29 (a) Attained a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale for STEM
- 30 courses taken in high school.

1 (b) *Successfully completed four year-long courses, or the*
2 *equivalent, in mathematics and four year-long courses, or the*
3 *equivalent, in science while enrolled in high school. The*
4 *requirement for completion of up to one of the year-long courses*
5 *in mathematics may be satisfied by completion of a course or*
6 *courses in computer science.*

7 ~~(b)~~

8 (c) Has one of the following:

9 (1) A score of 3 or higher on an advanced placement
10 examination in science.

11 (2) A score of 600 or higher on an SAT subject test in science.

12 (3) A score of 4 or higher on an international baccalaureate
13 examination in science.

14 (4) A grade of B or higher in a college-level science course
15 taken through concurrent enrollment.

16 (5) *A score indicating that the pupil has met or exceeded*
17 *standards on a state-standards-aligned assessment in mathematics.*

18 ~~(e)~~

19 (d) Has one of the following:

20 (1) A score of 3 or higher on an advanced placement
21 examination in mathematics.

22 (2) A score of 600 or higher on an SAT subject test in
23 mathematics.

24 (3) A score of 4 or higher on an international baccalaureate
25 examination in mathematics.

26 (4) A grade of B or higher in a college level mathematics course
27 taken through concurrent enrollment.

28 ~~(d) Has one or more of the following:~~

29 ~~(1) An extracurricular activity relating to STEM, including, but~~
30 ~~not limited to, any of the following:~~

31 ~~(A) Active participation in a club or organization that meets~~
32 ~~regularly and either participates in or organizes events relating to~~
33 ~~the STEM fields.~~

34 ~~(B) Participation in STEM based competitions, such as robotics,~~
35 ~~coding, or engineering.~~

36 ~~(C) Internships with organizations or employers who work in~~
37 ~~the STEM fields such as the health sciences, laboratories, or~~
38 ~~engineering firms.~~

1 ~~(D) Participation in the research of a STEM topic either done~~
2 ~~independently or in coordination with a STEM professional such~~
3 ~~as a university professor or biotech researcher.~~

4 ~~(E) Participation in a STEM-related career pathway for at least~~
5 ~~two years, which may include, but is not limited to, engineering,~~
6 ~~health, energy, or information technology.~~

7 ~~(2) A grade of B or higher in a computer, technology, or~~
8 ~~engineering course taken either at the enrolled high school or~~
9 ~~through concurrent enrollment at a California community college.~~

10 ~~(3) A score of 3 or higher on the advanced placement computer~~
11 ~~science examination.~~

12 ~~(5) A score indicating that the pupil has met or exceeded~~
13 ~~standards on a state-standards-aligned assessment in mathematics.~~

14 51473. The Superintendent shall do both of the following:

15 (a) Prepare and deliver to participating school districts an
16 appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of
17 the pupil indicating that the pupil has been awarded a State Seal
18 of STEM by the Superintendent.

19 (b) Provide other information it deems necessary for school
20 districts to successfully participate in the program.

21 51474. A school district that participates in the program under
22 this article shall do both of the following:

23 (a) Maintain appropriate records in order to identify pupils who
24 have earned a State Seal of STEM.

25 (b) Affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript
26 of each pupil who earns a State Seal of STEM.

27 51475. No fee shall be charged to a pupil to receive a State
28 Seal of STEM.

29 *51476. This chapter shall not become operative until after data*
30 *from the statewide administration of state science assessments*
31 *aligned to the California Next Generation Science Standards are*
32 *available. Data from a field test of a state science assessment does*
33 *not satisfy this section.*

34 *51477. This chapter shall become inoperative on July 31, 2024,*
35 *and, as of January 1, 2025, is repealed, unless a later enacted*
36 *statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2025,*
37 *deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and*
38 *is repealed.*

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