

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 22, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2072**

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

February 17, 2016

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An act to add and repeal Article 7 (commencing with Section 51470) 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 The bill’s provisions would be repealed on January 1, 2025.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

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7 51470. The State Seal of STEM is established to recognize  
8 high school graduates who have attained proficiency in fields of  
9 study within the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and  
10 mathematics (STEM). The State Seal of STEM shall be awarded  
11 by the Superintendent. School district participation in this program  
12 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 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 that a graduating high  
26 school pupil has attained proficiency in STEM and meets all of  
27 the following criteria:

- 28 (a) Attained a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale for STEM
- 29 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 (c) Has one of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

18 (d) Has one of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

29 51473. The Superintendent shall do both of the following:

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

34 (b) Provide other information ~~it~~ *he or she* deems necessary for  
35 school districts to successfully participate in the program.

36 51474. A school district that participates in the program under  
37 this article shall do both of the following:

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

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

3 51475. No fee shall be charged to a pupil to receive a State  
4 Seal of STEM.

5 51476. This chapter shall not become operative until after data  
6 from the statewide administration of state science assessments  
7 aligned to the California Next Generation Science Standards are  
8 available. Data from a field test of a state science assessment does  
9 not satisfy this section.

10 51477. This chapter shall become inoperative on July 31, 2024,  
11 and, as of January 1, 2025, is repealed, unless a later enacted  
12 statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2025,  
13 deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and  
14 is repealed.

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