

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2237

Introduced by Assembly Member Olsen
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baker, Bonilla, Chang, and Gray
Gray, Kim, and O'Donnell
(Coauthor: Senator Bates)

February 18, 2016

An act to add Article 14 (commencing with Section 33480) to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to partnership academies.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2237, as amended, Olsen. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Partnership Academies.

Existing law establishes a system of public elementary and secondary education, with instruction provided by school districts at schoolsites throughout the state. The State Department of Education, under the administration of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, has numerous duties with respect to the funding and conduct of the instructional activities undertaken by school districts.

This bill would establish a program for purposes of providing grants to school districts for the establishment of up to 100 partnership academies dedicated to training young people in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) occupations.

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

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

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a)

(1) All young people should be prepared to think deeply and critically so that they can become innovators, educators, researchers, and leaders capable of solving the most pressing challenges facing our nation and world, both today and tomorrow. However, currently, not enough of our youth have access to quality science, technology, engineering, and ~~math~~ *mathematics* (STEM) learning opportunities, and too few ~~students~~ *pupils* see these disciplines as springboards to their careers.

(b)

(2) Only 81 percent of Asian American high school pupils and 71 percent of white high school pupils attend high schools where the full range of mathematics and science courses, namely ~~Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics,~~ *algebra I, geometry, algebra II, calculus, biology, chemistry, and physics,* are offered. Access to these courses for American Indian, Native Alaskan, black, and Hispanic high school pupils is significantly worse. A child's race, ZIP code, or socioeconomic status should never determine his or her STEM fluency. Children must be provided with the opportunity to be career- and college-ready in order to thrive in a modern STEM economy.

(c)

(3) Only 16 percent of American high school seniors are proficient in mathematics and interested in a STEM career. Even among those who do go on to pursue a college or university major in STEM fields, only about half choose to work in a STEM-related career. In 2014, California's K–12 public education system ranked 43rd in the nation. Surveys reveal that only 29 percent of Americans rated our nation's K–12 education system in STEM subjects as above average or the best in the world. In our competitive global economy, these statistics are unacceptable.

(d)

(4) Partnership academies provide smaller learning communities with a career-focused theme. Academy components include rigorous academics and career technical education, a committed

1 team of teachers, and active business and postsecondary
2 partnerships.

3 (e)

4 (b) Therefore, *it is the intent of the Legislature* ~~needs~~ to provide
5 more opportunities for pupils in our state's public schools to access
6 high-quality STEM preparation through a variety of opportunities,
7 including additional funding for establishing STEM-related
8 partnership academies.

9 SEC. 2. Article 14 (commencing with Section 33480) is added
10 to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Education
11 Code, to read:

12
13 Article 14. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
14 Partnership Academies Act
15

16 33480. This article shall be known, and may be ~~cited as~~, *cited*,
17 as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Partnership
18 Academies.

19 33481. (a) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
20 Partnership Academies is hereby established. Commencing with
21 the ~~2016–17~~ 2017–18 school year, the department, in coordination
22 with the ~~Superintendent~~ *Superintendent*, shall, with funds
23 appropriated in the annual Budget Act, issue grants for the
24 establishment of 100 partnership academies dedicated to training
25 young people in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
26 (STEM) occupations, including, but not limited to, application
27 software developer, computer user support specialist, computer
28 programmer, computer hardware engineer, industrial engineer,
29 civil engineer, architectural engineer, aerospace engineer, dietetic
30 technician, medical scientist, microbiologist, general medical
31 practitioner, dental services provider, and chemist.

32 (b) (1) The selection of school districts to establish STEM
33 partnership academies, and the planning and development of these
34 academies, shall be conducted pursuant to the procedures and
35 requirements established as specified in Section 54691. Planning
36 and development grants under this article shall be made available
37 for up to 100 partnership academies in addition to the total number
38 of grants established pursuant to Section 54691.

39 (2) A school district applying to convert an existing school
40 program into a *STEM* partnership academy that meets the criteria

1 for a partnership academy pursuant to Section 54692 and paragraph
2 ~~(3)~~ (4) may receive first-year implementation funds, as appropriate,
3 in accordance with this article.

4 *(3) In awarding grants pursuant to this section, the*
5 *Superintendent shall grant priority to proposals that address the*
6 *participation of pupils traditionally underrepresented in STEM*
7 *education or professions.*

8 ~~(3)~~

9 (4) To be eligible for funding pursuant to this article, each
10 proposed *STEM* partnership academy shall satisfy both of the
11 following requirements:

12 (A) (i) Coursework and internship or preapprenticeship
13 programs of the proposed academy shall focus significant time on
14 the use of emerging technologies and state-of-the-art equipment.

15 (ii) The proposed *STEM* partnership academy shall demonstrate
16 compliance with clause (i) through its efforts to obtain input from
17 industry and professional trade organizations.

18 (B) Staff development opportunities shall be included in the
19 proposed *STEM* partnership academy plan to ensure that teaching
20 staff has the opportunity to be trained in the use of emerging
21 technologies and become familiar with new equipment and current
22 practices in STEM fields.