

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2838**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member O'Donnell**

February 19, 2016

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An act ~~relating to public elementary and secondary education~~, to amend Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2838, as amended, O'Donnell. ~~Public elementary and secondary education.~~ *Pupil instruction: graduation requirements: alternatives: online advanced placement courses.*

*Existing law sets forth the courses a pupil is required to complete while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school. The governing board of a school district is required to adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study for high school graduation. Those alternative means may include, among other things, career technical education classes offered in high schools and courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs.*

*This bill would authorize those alternative means to include online advanced placement courses that are approved by the College Board. The bill would also authorize a school district to contract with a provider of the approved online advanced placement courses to provide the courses free of charge to its pupils.*

~~Existing law establishes a system of public elementary and secondary education in this state. Under this system, local educational agencies~~

are authorized to operate public schools and provide instruction to pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

~~This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation relating to public elementary and secondary education in this state.~~

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

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

1     SECTION 1. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as  
2     amended by Section 1 of Chapter 888 of the Statutes of 2014, is  
3     amended to read:

4     51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while  
5     in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of  
6     graduation from high school:

7     (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
8     specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
9     otherwise specified:

10    (A) Three courses in English.

11    (B) Two courses in mathematics. If the governing board of a  
12    school district requires more than two courses in mathematics for  
13    graduation, the governing board of the school district may award  
14    a pupil up to one mathematics course credit pursuant to Section  
15    51225.35.

16    (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
17    sciences.

18    (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
19    history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
20    one-semester course in American government and civics; and a  
21    one-semester course in economics.

22    (E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,  
23    or, commencing with the 2012–13 school year, career technical  
24    education.

25    (i) For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this  
26    subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be  
27    deemed a course in foreign language.

28    (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career  
29    technical education” means a course in a district-operated career  
30    technical education program that is aligned to the career technical  
31    model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state

1 board, including courses through a regional occupational center  
2 or program operated by a county superintendent of schools or  
3 pursuant to a joint powers agreement.

4 (iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school  
5 district that currently does not offer career technical education  
6 courses to start new career technical education programs for  
7 purposes of this section.

8 (iv) If a school district or county office of education elects to  
9 allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement  
10 imposed by this subparagraph, the governing board of the school  
11 district or county office of education, before offering that  
12 alternative to pupils, shall notify parents, teachers, pupils, and the  
13 public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of  
14 all of the following:

15 (I) The intent to offer career technical education courses to fulfill  
16 the graduation requirement specified in this subparagraph.

17 (II) The impact that offering career technical education courses,  
18 pursuant to this subparagraph, will have on the availability of  
19 courses that meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the  
20 California State University and the University of California, and  
21 whether the career technical education courses to be offered  
22 pursuant to this subparagraph are approved to satisfy those  
23 eligibility requirements. If a school district elects to allow a career  
24 technical education course to satisfy the requirement imposed by  
25 this subparagraph, the school district shall comply with subdivision  
26 (m) of Section 48980.

27 (III) The distinction, if any, between the high school graduation  
28 requirements of the school district or county office of education,  
29 and the eligibility requirements for admission to the California  
30 State University and the University of California.

31 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been  
32 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

33 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing  
34 board of the school district.

35 (b) (1) The governing ~~board~~, *board of a school district*, with  
36 the active involvement of parents, administrators, teachers, and  
37 pupils, shall adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the  
38 prescribed course of study that may include practical demonstration  
39 of skills and competencies, supervised work experience or other  
40 outside school experience, career technical education classes

1 offered in high schools, courses offered by regional occupational  
2 centers or programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study,  
3 and credit earned at a postsecondary educational institution.  
4 Requirements for graduation and specified alternative modes for  
5 completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available  
6 to pupils, parents, and the public.

7 *(2) The alternative means may also include, but are not required*  
8 *to include, online advanced placement courses that are approved*  
9 *by the College Board. A school district may contract with a*  
10 *provider of the approved online advanced placement courses to*  
11 *provide the courses free of charge to its pupils.*

12 (c) On or before July 1, 2017, the department shall submit a  
13 comprehensive report to the appropriate policy committees of the  
14 Legislature on the addition of career technical education courses  
15 to satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of  
16 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), including, but not limited to, the  
17 following information:

18 (1) A comparison of the pupil enrollment in career technical  
19 education courses, foreign language courses, and visual and  
20 performing arts courses for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,  
21 inclusive, to the pupil enrollment in career technical education  
22 courses, foreign language courses, and visual and performing arts  
23 courses for the 2012–13 to 2016–17 school years, inclusive.

24 (2) The reasons, reported by school districts, that pupils give  
25 for choosing to enroll in a career technical education course to  
26 satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph  
27 (1) of subdivision (a).

28 (3) The type and number of career technical education courses  
29 that were conducted for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,  
30 inclusive, compared to the type and number of career technical  
31 education courses that were conducted for the 2012–13 to 2016–17  
32 school years, inclusive.

33 (4) The number of career technical education courses that  
34 satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the  
35 University of California or the California State University.

36 (5) The extent to which the career technical education courses  
37 chosen by pupils are aligned with the California Career Technical  
38 Education Standards, and prepare pupils for employment, advanced  
39 training, and postsecondary education.

1 (6) The number of career technical education courses that also  
2 satisfy the visual and performing arts requirement, and the number  
3 of career technical education courses that also satisfy the foreign  
4 language requirement.

5 (7) Annual pupil dropout and graduation rates for the 2011–12  
6 to 2014–15 school years, inclusive.

7 (d) For purposes of completing the report described in  
8 subdivision (c), the Superintendent may use existing state resources  
9 and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not available or  
10 sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept grants,  
11 and receive donations and other financial support from public or  
12 private sources for purposes of this section.

13 (e) For purposes of completing the report described in  
14 subdivision (c), the Superintendent may accept support, including,  
15 but not limited to, financial and technical support, from high school  
16 reform advocates, teachers, chamber organizations, industry  
17 representatives, research centers, parents, and pupils.

18 (f) This section shall become inoperative on the earlier of the  
19 following two dates:

20 (1) On July 1, immediately following the first fiscal year after  
21 the enactment of the act that adds this paragraph in which the  
22 number of career technical education courses that, as determined  
23 by the department, satisfy the foreign language requirement for  
24 admission to the California State University and the University of  
25 California is at least twice the number of career technical education  
26 courses that meet these admission requirements as of January 1,  
27 2012. This section shall be repealed on the following January 1,  
28 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before  
29 that date, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes  
30 inoperative and is repealed. It is the intent of the Legislature that  
31 new career technical education courses that satisfy the foreign  
32 language requirement for admission to the California State  
33 University and the University of California focus on world  
34 languages aligned with career preparation, emphasizing real-world  
35 application and technical content in related career and technical  
36 education courses.

37 (2) On July 1, 2017, and, as of January 1, 2018, is repealed,  
38 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before  
39 January 1, 2018, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes  
40 inoperative and is repealed.

1     *SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as amended*  
2     *by Section 2 of Chapter 888 of the Statutes of 2014, is amended*  
3     *to read:*

4     51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while  
5     in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of  
6     graduation from high school:

7     (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
8     specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
9     otherwise specified:

10    (A) Three courses in English.

11    (B) Two courses in mathematics. If the governing board of a  
12    school district requires more than two courses in mathematics for  
13    graduation, the governing board of the school district may award  
14    a pupil up to one mathematics course credit pursuant to Section  
15    51225.35.

16    (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
17    sciences.

18    (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
19    history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
20    one-semester course in American government and civics; and a  
21    one-semester course in economics.

22    (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.  
23    For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this  
24    subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be  
25    deemed a course in foreign language.

26    (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been  
27    exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

28    (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing  
29    board of the school district.

30    (b) *(1) The governing-board, board of a school district, with*  
31    the active involvement of parents, administrators, teachers, and  
32    pupils, shall adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the  
33    prescribed course of study that may include practical demonstration  
34    of skills and competencies, supervised work experience or other  
35    outside school experience, career technical education classes  
36    offered in high schools, courses offered by regional occupational  
37    centers or programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study,  
38    and credit earned at a postsecondary educational institution.  
39    Requirements for graduation and specified alternative modes for

1 completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available  
2 to pupils, parents, and the public.

3 (2) *The alternative means may also include, but are not required*  
4 *to include, online advanced placement courses that are approved*  
5 *by the College Board. A school district may contract with a*  
6 *provider of the approved online advanced placement courses to*  
7 *provide the courses free of charge to its pupils.*

8 (c) If a pupil completed a career technical education course that  
9 met the requirements of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of  
10 subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding  
11 this section, before the inoperative date of that section, that course  
12 shall be deemed to fulfill the requirements of subparagraph (E) of  
13 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of this section.

14 (d) This section shall become operative upon the date that  
15 Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding this section,  
16 becomes inoperative.

17 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~  
18 ~~legislation relating to public elementary and secondary education~~  
19 ~~in this state.~~