

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 8, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 451

Introduced by Senator Lara

February 25, 2015

An act to amend Section 49600 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction and services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 451, as amended, Lara. Pupil instruction and services: educational counseling.

Existing law authorizes the governing board of a school district to provide a comprehensive educational counseling program for all pupils enrolled in the schools of the district, and, if the program is provided, requires educational counseling to include both academic counseling and career and vocational counseling in specified areas.

This bill would instead require educational counseling to include academic counseling in specified areas, and would provide that educational counseling may include specified areas, including, among others, career and vocational counseling. The bill would state the Legislature's intent that school counselors perform specified functions and services, and would require professional development related to career and vocational counseling to include strategies for counseling pupils in specified areas. The bill would make a conforming change by deleting a provision relating to school counselors providing services prior to January 1, 1987.

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 49600 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:

3 49600. (a) The governing board of a school district may
4 provide a comprehensive educational counseling program for all
5 pupils enrolled in the school district. It is the intent of the
6 Legislature that a school district that provides educational
7 counseling to its pupils implement a structured and coherent
8 counseling program.

9 (b) For purposes of this section, “educational counseling” means
10 specialized services provided by a school counselor possessing a
11 valid credential with a specialization in pupil personnel services
12 who is assigned specific times to directly counsel pupils.

13 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that school counselors do
14 all of the following:

15 (1) Engage with, advocate for, and provide support for, all pupils
16 with respect to learning and achievement.

17 (2) Plan, implement, and evaluate programs to promote the
18 academic, career, personal, and social development of all ~~pupils~~.
19 *pupils, including pupils from low-income families, foster youth,*
20 *homeless youth, undocumented youth, and pupils at all levels of*
21 *academic, social, and emotional abilities.*

22 (3) Use multiple sources of information to monitor and improve
23 pupil behavior and achievement.

24 (4) Collaborate and coordinate with school and community
25 resources.

26 (5) Promote and maintain a safe learning environment for all
27 pupils by providing restorative justice practices, positive behavior
28 interventions, and support services.

29 (6) Intervene to ameliorate school-related problems, including
30 issues related to chronic absences.

31 (7) Use research-based strategies to reduce stigma, conflict, and
32 pupil-to-pupil mistreatment and bullying.

33 (8) Improve school climate and pupil well-being.

34 (9) Enhance pupils’ social and emotional competence, character,
35 health, civic engagement, cultural literacy, and commitment to
36 lifelong learning and the pursuit of high-quality educational
37 programs.

1 (10) Provide counseling interventions and support services for
2 pupils classified as English learners, eligible for free or
3 reduced-price meals, or foster youth, including—~~providing~~
4 *enhancing* equity and access to the education system and
5 community services.

6 (11) Engage in continued development as a professional school
7 counselor.

8 ~~(e)~~

9 (d) Educational counseling shall include academic counseling,
10 in which pupils receive counseling in the following areas:

11 (1) ~~Establishment~~—*Development* and implementation, with
12 parental involvement, of the pupil’s immediate and long-range
13 educational plans.

14 (2) Optimizing progress towards achievement of proficiency
15 standards.

16 (3) Completion of the required curriculum in accordance with
17 the pupil’s needs, abilities, interests, and aptitudes.

18 (4) Academic planning for access and success in higher
19 education programs, including advisement on courses needed for
20 admission to public colleges and universities, standardized
21 admissions tests, and financial aid.

22 ~~(f)~~

23 (e) Educational counseling may also include counseling in any
24 of the following:

25 (1) Individualized review of the academic and department
26 records of a pupil.

27 (2) Individualized review of the pupil’s career goals, and the
28 available academic and career technical education opportunities
29 and community and workplace experiences available to the pupil
30 that may support the pursuit of those goals.

31 (3) Opportunity for a counselor to meet with each pupil and, if
32 practicable, the parents or legal guardian of the pupil to discuss
33 the academic and department records of the pupil, his or her
34 educational options, the coursework and academic progress needed
35 for satisfactory completion of middle or high school, passage of
36 the high school exit examination, education opportunities at
37 community colleges, eligibility for admission to a four-year
38 institution of postsecondary education, including the University
39 of California and the California State University, and the
40 availability of career technical education. That discussion shall

1 also address the availability of intensive instruction and services
2 as required pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 37254, for up to
3 two consecutive academic years after the completion of grade 12
4 or until the pupil has passed both parts of the high school exit
5 examination, whichever comes first, for those pupils who have not
6 passed one or both parts of the high school exit examination by
7 the end of grade 12. The educational options discussed at the
8 meeting shall include, to the extent these services are available,
9 the college preparatory program and career technical education
10 programs, including regional occupational centers and programs
11 and similar alternatives available to pupils within the school
12 district.

13 (4) Identifying pupils who are at risk of not graduating with the
14 rest of their class, are not earning credits at a rate that will enable
15 them to pass the high school exit examination, or do not have
16 sufficient training to allow them to fully engage in their chosen
17 career.

18 (5) In schools that enroll pupils in grades 10 and 12, developing
19 a list of coursework and experience necessary to assist each pupil
20 in his or her grade who has not passed one or both parts of the high
21 school exit examination or has not satisfied, or is not on track to
22 satisfy, the curricular requirements for admission to the University
23 of California and the California State University, and to
24 successfully transition to postsecondary education or employment.

25 (6) Developing a list of coursework and experience necessary
26 to assist each pupil in middle school to successfully transition to
27 high school and meet all graduation requirements, including
28 passing the high school exit examination.

29 (7) In schools that enroll pupils in grades 6 to 12, inclusive,
30 developing a list of coursework and experience necessary to assist
31 each pupil to begin to satisfy the curricular requirements for
32 admission to the University of California and the California State
33 University.

34 (8) Providing a copy of the lists developed pursuant to
35 paragraphs (6) and (7) to a pupil and his or her parent or legal
36 guardian, ensuring that the list of coursework and experience is
37 part of the pupil's cumulative record.

38 (9) Informing each pupil who has failed to pass one or both
39 parts of the high school exit examination of the option of intensive
40 instruction and services.

- 1 (10) Developing a list of coursework and experience for a pupil
2 enrolled in grade 12, including options for continuing his or her
3 education if he or she fails to meet graduation requirements. These
4 options shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:
5 (A) Enrolling in an adult education program.
6 (B) Enrolling in a community college.
7 (C) Continuing enrollment in the pupil's current school district.
8 (D) Continuing to receive intensive instruction and services for
9 up to two consecutive academic years after completion of grade
10 12 or until the pupil has passed both parts of the high school exit
11 examination, whichever comes first.
- 12 (11) Providing a copy of the list of coursework and experiences
13 developed pursuant to paragraph (10) to the pupil and his or her
14 parent or legal guardian, ensuring that the list of coursework and
15 experience is part of the cumulative records of a pupil.
- 16 (12) Offering and scheduling an individual conference with
17 each pupil in grades 10 and 12 who has failed to pass one or both
18 parts of the high school exit examination or has not satisfied, or
19 is not on track to satisfy, the curricular requirements for admission
20 to the University of California and the California State University
21 and to successfully transition to postsecondary education or
22 employment, and providing the following information to the pupil
23 and his or her parent or legal guardian:
24 (A) Consequences of not passing the high school exit
25 examination.
26 (B) Programs, courses, and career technical education options
27 available to the pupil as needed for satisfactory completion of
28 middle or high school.
29 (C) Cumulative records and transcripts of the pupil.
30 (D) Results of standardized and diagnostic assessments of the
31 pupil.
32 (E) Remediation strategies, high school courses, and alternative
33 education options available to the pupil, including, but not limited
34 to, informing the pupil of the option to receive intensive instruction
35 and services for up to two consecutive academic years after
36 completion of grade 12 or until the pupil has passed both parts of
37 the high school exit examination, whichever comes first.
38 (F) Information on postsecondary education and training.

1 (G) The score of the pupil on the English language arts or
2 mathematics portion of the California Standards Test administered
3 in grade 6, as applicable.

4 (H) Eligibility requirements, including coursework and test
5 requirements, and the progress of the pupil toward satisfaction of
6 those requirements for admission to four-year institutions of
7 postsecondary education, including the University of California
8 and the California State University.

9 (I) The availability of financial aid for postsecondary education.

10 (13) Career and vocational counseling, in which pupils are
11 assisted in doing all of the following:

12 (A) Planning for the future, including, but not limited to,
13 identifying personal interests, skills, and abilities, career planning,
14 course selection, and career transition.

15 (B) Becoming aware of personal preferences and interests that
16 influence educational and occupational exploration, career choice,
17 and career success.

18 (C) Developing realistic perceptions of work, the changing work
19 environment, and the effect of work on lifestyle.

20 (D) Understanding the relationship between academic
21 achievement and career success, and the importance of maximizing
22 career options.

23 (E) Understanding the value of participating in career technical
24 education and work-based learning activities and programs,
25 including, but not limited to, service learning, regional occupational
26 centers and programs, partnership programs, job shadowing, and
27 mentoring experiences.

28 (F) Understanding the need to develop essential employable
29 skills and work habits.

30 (G) Understanding the variety of four-year colleges and
31 universities and community college vocational and technical
32 preparation programs, as well as admission criteria and enrollment
33 procedures.

34 (14) Personal and social counseling, in which pupils receive
35 counseling pertaining to interpersonal relationships for the purpose
36 of promoting the development of their academic abilities, careers
37 and vocations, and personal and social skills.

38 ~~(g)~~

39 (f) Professional development related to career and vocational
40 counseling shall include strategies for counseling pupils pursuing

1 postsecondary education, career technical education, multiple
2 pathways, college, and global career opportunities.

3 ~~(h)~~

4 (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting
5 persons participating in an organized advisory program approved
6 by the governing board of a school district, and supervised by a
7 school district counselor, from advising pupils pursuant to the
8 organized advisory program.

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