

Introduced by Senator LeyvaFebruary 17, 2016

An act to amend Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1123, as introduced, Leyva. Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements.

Existing law requires each pupil completing grade 12 to satisfy certain requirements as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school. These requirements include the completion of designated coursework in grades 9 to 12, inclusive. The coursework requirements include, among others, the completion of one course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, or, commencing with the 2012–13 school year and continuing until the end of the 2016–17 school year on July 1, 2017, or until the occurrence of a specified event relating to career technical education requirements of the University of California and the California State University, whichever occurs earlier, career technical education, as specified.

This bill would instead require that the coursework requirements include, among others, the completion of one course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, or, commencing with the 2012–13 school year and continuing until the end of the 2021–22 school year on July 1, 2022, or until the occurrence of a specified event relating to career technical education requirements of the University of California and the California State University, whichever occurs earlier, career technical education, as specified.

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
32 board, including courses through a regional occupational center
33 or program operated by a county superintendent of schools or
34 pursuant to a joint powers agreement.

35 (iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school
36 district that currently does not offer career technical education
37 courses to start new career technical education programs for
38 purposes of this section.

1 (iv) If a school district or county office of education elects to
2 allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement
3 imposed by this subparagraph, the governing board of the school
4 district or county office of education, before offering that
5 alternative to pupils, shall notify parents, teachers, pupils, and the
6 public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of
7 all of the following:

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

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

20 (III) The distinction, if any, between the high school graduation
21 requirements of the school district or county office of education,
22 and the eligibility requirements for admission to the California
23 State University and the University of California.

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

26 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
27 board of the school district.

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

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

7 (1) A comparison of the pupil enrollment in career technical
8 education courses, foreign language courses, and visual and
9 performing arts courses for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,
10 inclusive, to the pupil enrollment in career technical education
11 courses, foreign language courses, and visual and performing arts
12 courses for the 2012–13 to 2016–17 school years, inclusive.

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

17 (3) The type and number of career technical education courses
18 that were conducted for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,
19 inclusive, compared to the type and number of career technical
20 education courses that were conducted for the 2012–13 to 2016–17
21 school years, inclusive.

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

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

29 (6) The number of career technical education courses that also
30 satisfy the visual and performing arts requirement, and the number
31 of career technical education courses that also satisfy the foreign
32 language requirement.

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

35 (d) For purposes of completing the report described in
36 subdivision (c), the Superintendent may use existing state resources
37 and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not available or
38 sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept grants,
39 and receive donations and other financial support from public or
40 private sources for purposes of this section.

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

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

8 (1) On July 1, immediately following the first fiscal year after
9 the enactment of the act that adds this paragraph in which the
10 number of career technical education courses that, as determined
11 by the department, satisfy the foreign language requirement for
12 admission to the California State University and the University of
13 California is at least twice the number of career technical education
14 courses that meet these admission requirements as of January 1,
15 2012. This section shall be repealed on the following January 1,
16 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before
17 that date, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes
18 inoperative and is repealed. It is the intent of the Legislature that
19 new career technical education courses that satisfy the foreign
20 language requirement for admission to the California State
21 University and the University of California focus on world
22 languages aligned with career preparation, emphasizing real-world
23 application and technical content in related career and technical
24 education courses.

25 (2) On July 1, ~~2017~~, 2022, and, as of January 1, ~~2018~~, 2023, is
26 repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on
27 or before January 1, ~~2018~~, 2023, deletes or extends the dates on
28 which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.