

Assembly Bill No. 1945

CHAPTER 960

An act to amend Section 44670.3 of the Education Code, relating to school development plans.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2000. Filed with Secretary of State September 30, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1945, Lowenthal. School development plans.

Existing law authorizes school districts to establish school development plans for staff development. Existing law requires that staff development activities included in school development plans assist personnel at the local schoolsite to, among other things, improve the school and classroom environments, including working relationships with parents and other community members.

This bill would also require staff development activities included in school development plans to assist personnel at the local schoolsite to develop tolerance programs, as described.

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

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

(a) The diversity in the classrooms of California is increasing. People from more than 140 countries make their homes in California and more than 90 languages are spoken in our public schools.

(b) California schools seek mutual respect amidst our differences in race, religion, national origin, socioeconomic status, gender, and other characteristics.

(c) The quest for equal treatment in California is more than a goal; it is becoming a necessity in a society in which yesterday's minorities will form tomorrow's majority.

(d) Most individuals prosecuted for committing a hate crime against a minority are between the ages of 16 to 20, inclusive.

(e) Public schools face a growing need for methods to combat latent and overt offensiveness and potential violence.

SEC. 2. Section 44670.3 of the Education Code is amended to read:

44670.3. School development plans authorized by this article shall include staff development activities directly related to the annual school improvement objectives developed in accordance with Section 44670.4, and shall assist personnel at the local school site to do the following:

(a) Improve instructional practices in each subject, strengthen subject matter knowledge, and improve support services based on a continuing examination of instruction and learning in the subject areas offered by the school. That examination shall include research, if any, based on classroom experience that is conducted by teachers in accordance with those research standards and procedures that are generally accepted in higher education.

(b) Ensure that subject matter requirements, instructional strategies, and instructional materials meet uniformly high academic standards and are responsive to the diversity among pupil learning needs and styles in a multicultural society, including underachieving pupils and pupils with exceptional abilities or needs.

(c) Review, select, and learn to utilize curricula and instructional materials in a wide variety of subject areas, giving consideration to the state-recommended curriculum framework and model curriculum standards in each subject matter area.

(d) Address ways in which educational technology can support the instructional program.

(e) Improve the school and classroom environments, including working relationships among pupils, parents and guardians, teachers, and other community members of various ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

(f) Develop tolerance programs that capitalize on the positive potential of ethnic diversity and offer educators solutions for confronting problems generated by a multiethnic constituency, with the following goals:

(1) Building a greater awareness among educators of the issues of tolerance and diversity.

(2) Exposing working professionals to the dynamics of prejudice and discrimination that impede effective learning.

(3) Providing a broad range of multicultural viewpoints that may influence relationships among pupils, and between pupils and teachers.

(4) Providing solutions for conflicts that result from multiethnic disputes.

(g) Improve pupil attendance.

