

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2050**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Cardenas**

February 22, 2000

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An act to add Section 51220.3 to the Education Code, relating to instructional programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2050, as introduced, Cardenas. Instructional programs: honors courses.

Existing law requires the governing board of every school district to enforce in its schools the courses of study and the use of textbooks and other instructional materials prescribed by the proper authority.

This bill would prohibit a school district from designating a course that covers a subject required for admission to the University of California or the California State University as an honors course unless the University of California approves the course for extra grade weighting.

The bill would authorize, subject to an appropriation being made for that purpose, a school district in which 75% or more of the pupils receive free or reduced cost meals to apply for a grant with which to start or expand the number of advanced placement and honors courses offered in its high schools that maintain 2 or fewer advanced placement or honors courses. The bill would require the State Department of Education to disseminate information to school districts regarding the availability of grant funding and the eligibility criteria for receipt of funding when funds are appropriated for purposes

of this program. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to submit a report to the Legislature that evaluates the impact of the grants.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 51220.3 is added to the  
2 Education Code, to read:

3 51220.3. (a) A school district may not designate as an  
4 honors course a course that covers a subject required for  
5 admission to the University of California or the California  
6 State University unless the school district submits a  
7 description of the course curriculum to the Office of the  
8 President of the University of California for approval and  
9 receives confirmation from the University of California  
10 that it approves the course for extra grade weighting and  
11 includes the course on its list of honors courses. A course  
12 whose description is submitted to the University of  
13 California for approval would be reviewed through the  
14 university’s existing articulation process that awards extra  
15 credit for grade weighting only for courses that provide  
16 the depth, breadth, and rigor that is substantially similar  
17 to an advanced placement course, an entry level college  
18 course, or a community college level course.

19 (b) Subject to an appropriation being made for  
20 purposes of this section, a school district in which 75  
21 percent or more of the pupils receive free or reduced cost  
22 meals may apply for a grant with which to start or expand  
23 the number of advanced placement and honors courses  
24 offered in its high schools that maintain two or fewer  
25 advanced placement or honors courses.

26 (c) When funds are appropriated for purposes of this  
27 section, the State Department of Education shall  
28 disseminate information to school districts regarding the  
29 availability of grant funding and the eligibility criteria for  
30 receipt of funding.

31 (d) On or before December 31, 2006, the  
32 Superintendent of Public Instruction shall submit a



1 report to the Legislature that evaluates the impact of the  
2 grants made available pursuant to subdivision (b). The  
3 report shall include all of the following:

4 (1) The number of schools that offered honors and  
5 advanced placement courses because of the grants.

6 (2) The number of honors and advanced placement  
7 courses offered because of the grants.

8 (3) The number of pupils who were enrolled in the  
9 honors and advanced placement courses available  
10 because of the grants.

11 (4) The number of pupils who were enrolled in the  
12 honors and advanced placement courses available  
13 because of the grants and who were subsequently  
14 admitted to the University of California or the California  
15 State University.

16 (5) The percentage increase or decrease in the  
17 number of pupils accepted for admission to the  
18 University of California or the California State University  
19 after honors and advanced placement courses were made  
20 available because of these grants.

21 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that funding  
22 be provided for purposes of Section 51220.3 through and  
23 including the 2005–06 fiscal year.

