

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 1, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 890

Introduced by Senator Scott

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Portantino)

(Coauthor: Senator Alquist)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berryhill and Torrico)

February 23, 2007

An act to add *and repeal* Article 6.3 (commencing with Section 54710) ~~to~~ of Chapter 9 of Part 29 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to pupils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 890, as amended, Scott. Pupils: early college commitment program.

Existing law requires a school district maintaining any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to offer to all otherwise qualified pupils in those grades a course of study fulfilling the requirements and prerequisites for admission to the California public institutions of postsecondary education and to provide a timely opportunity to each of those pupils to enroll within a 4-year period in each course necessary to fulfill those requirements and prerequisites.

Existing law authorizes a school district to apply to establish a University and College Opportunities Program with existing local or categorical funds. The program plan developed by a school district or school is required to include, among other things, college counseling to assist pupils in preparing application forms for college admission, to procure scholarships, and other financial aid, and to meet all deadlines for these programs.

This bill would establish, *until January 1, 2014*, the early college commitment program. Participation by school districts in the program would be voluntary. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, among other program duties, to designate the 30% of school districts that operate middle and high schools with the highest proportion of low-income pupils, as defined, as college opportunity zones. A ~~participating school district that is identified~~ *designated* as a college opportunity zone by the Superintendent would be required to give all pupils enrolled in grades 6 to 9, inclusive, and their parent or legal guardian, the opportunity to sign “Save Me a Spot in College” pledge cards developed by the Superintendent. ~~Other participating school districts~~ *Schools not designated as a college opportunity zone* would be required to give pupils who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals and are enrolled in grades 6 to 9, inclusive, and their parent or legal guardian, *and all foster youth and the appropriate adult responsible for that foster youth*, the opportunity to sign a pledge card ~~and would be authorized to give any pupil enrolled in grades 6 to 9, inclusive, and their parent or legal guardian, the opportunity to sign a pledge card.~~ The bill would require participating school districts to provide college information and college preparation events targeted towards pupils who sign pledge cards.

The bill would provide that a pupil who signs a pledge card declares a commitment to prepare for college, finish high school, and enroll in college and commits, among other things, to meet all graduation requirements, ~~take rigorous college preparatory or career technical~~ *challenging* coursework, complete and file a free application for federal student aid and submit ~~their~~ *his or her* grade point average to the Student Aid Commission by March 2 of ~~their~~ *his or her* senior year.

The bill would encourage the California Community Colleges, the University of California, the California State University, independent colleges, the California Student Opportunity and Access Program, the Student Aid Commission, and other nonprofit, business, or other community organizations to provide support services as needed in coordination with local school districts.

The bill would require the Superintendent to submit a report to the Legislature, on or before November 1, 2012, evaluating the early college commitment program and recommending whether the program should be continued.

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. It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a
2 program to ensure early notification and early commitment of
3 college opportunities for pupils in middle school and high school
4 and their families. It is the intent of the Legislature that the program
5 motivate pupils to stay in school, graduate from high school, take
6 rigorous coursework, and, if they choose to do so, seek
7 postsecondary opportunities.

8 SEC. 2. Article 6.3 (commencing with Section 54710) is added
9 to Chapter 9 of Part 29 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education
10 Code, to read:

11
12 Article 6.3. Early College Commitment Program

13
14 54710. The early college commitment program is hereby
15 established for the purpose of accomplishing all of the following
16 goals:

17 (a) Increase high school completion rates, direct college-going
18 rates, and college preparation of pupils attending schools with the
19 greatest poverty and among low-income pupils in general.

20 (b) Motivate pupils to prepare for college by taking ~~rigorous~~
21 ~~challenging college preparatory coursework or rigorous career~~
22 ~~technical coursework, depending on their interests in pursuing~~
23 ~~direct coursework, which may include college preparatory and~~
24 ~~career technical classes, depending on their interest in pursuing~~
25 ~~direct~~ university admission or specific technical education
26 programs in community college.

27 (c) Help families understand that college is attainable and
28 affordable, that financial aid is available, and that with the right
29 preparation their children can go to college if they choose to do
30 so.

31 (d) Provide a clear path for pupils through middle schools, high
32 schools, community colleges, universities, and state and federal
33 financial aid programs, thereby improving opportunity and
34 efficiency.

35 (e) Strengthen the state's historic promise of college access
36 made in the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education and express
37 this commitment directly to middle and high school pupils and
38 their families.

1 (f) Prepare the highly skilled workforce necessary to keep
2 California's economy competitive, maintain the income and quality
3 of life for California residents, increase tax revenues, and provide
4 for improved civic and democratic participation.

5 54711. (a) Participation by school districts in the early college
6 commitment program is voluntary. A school district that chooses
7 to participate in the program is encouraged to do so districtwide,
8 with all schools in the district participating, and shall provide
9 schoolwide college information and college preparation events
10 targeted towards pupils who sign "Save Me a Spot in College"
11 pledge cards.

12 ~~(1) A participating school district that is identified as a college
13 opportunity zone district~~

14 *(1) Schools designated as a college opportunity zone, in a
15 participating school district, shall give all pupils enrolled in grades
16 6 to 9, inclusive, and their parent or legal guardian, or the
17 appropriate person in the case of foster youth, the opportunity to
18 sign a "Save Me a Spot in College" pledge card.*

19 ~~(2) Other participating school districts shall give pupils who are
20 eligible for free and reduced-price meals and are enrolled in grades
21 6 to 9, inclusive, and their parent or legal guardian, or the
22 appropriate person in the case of foster youth, the opportunity to
23 sign a "Save Me a Spot in College" pledge card and may give any
24 pupil enrolled in grades 6 to 9, inclusive, and their parent or legal
25 guardian, or the appropriate person in the case of foster youth, the
26 opportunity to sign a "Save Me a Spot in College" pledge card.~~

27 *(2) Schools not designated as a college opportunity zone, in a
28 participating school district, shall give a pupil who is eligible for
29 free and reduced-price meals and is enrolled in grades 6 to 9,
30 inclusive, and his or her parent or legal guardian, and all foster
31 youth and the appropriate adult responsible for that foster youth,
32 the opportunity to sign a "Save Me a Spot in College" pledge card.*

33 (b) A participating school district shall record data and track
34 pupils who enroll in the program in their existing pupil records
35 and provide necessary reports to the Superintendent to monitor
36 and evaluate the program.

37 54712. The Superintendent shall perform the following
38 responsibilities:

39 (a) Identify school districts as college opportunity zones. In
40 determining which school districts shall be identified as college

1 opportunity zones, the Superintendent shall designate the 30
2 percent of school districts that operate middle and high schools
3 with the highest proportion of low-income pupils. For purposes
4 of this subdivision, a low-income pupil is a pupil who is eligible
5 for free or reduced-price meals.

6 (b) Develop the “Save Me a Spot in College” pledge card.

7 (c) Develop the letter and information materials about the
8 program and college opportunities to be mailed to all school
9 districts and accredited private and independent schools that
10 maintain any of grades 6 to 9, inclusive.

11 (d) Consult with the California Community Colleges, the
12 University of California, the California State University, the
13 Student Aid Commission, and independent colleges and universities
14 in developing the pledge, letter, and supporting materials.

15 (e) Determine the form of special recognition pupils who meet
16 the requirements of the pledge will receive at the time of high
17 school graduation.

18 (f) Develop a method to collect data from participating school
19 districts to track enrolled pupils and evaluate the effectiveness of
20 the program.

21 54713. (a) A pupil who signs a pledge card declares a
22 commitment to prepare for college, finish high school, and enroll
23 in college and commits to do all of the following:

24 (1) Meet all graduation requirements to finish high school in
25 California.

26 (2) Take ~~rigorous~~ *challenging* college preparatory or career
27 technical coursework.

28 (3) Seek proficiency in mathematics and in reading and writing
29 in English.

30 (4) Complete and file a free application for federal student aid
31 and submit his or her grade point average to the Student Aid
32 Commission by March 2 of his or her senior year.

33 (5) Meet application and other requirements for university
34 admission or enroll directly in community college soon after high
35 school graduation.

36 (b) At the time of enrollment, each pupil shall receive a
37 certificate of participation in the early college commitment
38 program, with his or her name, and bearing the signature of the
39 Superintendent and the Governor.

1 (c) Participating pupils ~~shall also to~~ *also shall* receive a booklet
2 of college information providing more specific information about
3 eligibility requirements, preparation steps, and other pertinent
4 information. School districts shall provide information and services,
5 through existing programs, to the pupils who sign pledge cards
6 through their middle school and high school years. *These*
7 *“Roadmap to College” services shall include all of the following:*
8

9 (1) *Transcript review and academics assessment, leading to*
10 *course planning for the pupil at the time of enrollment in the early*
11 *college commitment program and annual reporting to the pupil*
12 *on how he or she is doing relative to state standards and other*
13 *benchmarks.*

14 (2) *Information about the Golden State Scholarshare College*
15 *Savings Trust (Article 19 (commencing with Section 69980) of*
16 *Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3) at the time of*
17 *enrollment.*

18 (3) *A visit to at least one community college, including, but not*
19 *limited to, exposure to career technical and transfer programs,*
20 *and at least one four-year college.*

21 (4) *Information on college admissions tests in grade 11.*

22 (5) *Information on college admission and community college*
23 *enrollment steps in grade 12.*

24 (6) *Information on the financial aid application process,*
25 *including, but not limited to, the free application for federal student*
26 *aid, in grade 12.*
27 (d) Pupils enrolled in early college commitment program who
28 meet their pledge will be eligible to continue their postsecondary
29 education at a California community college to pursue career
30 technical education or a degree, or to transfer to a four-year
31 university, or, if they meet the admission requirements and apply
32 for admission, at the University of California or the California
33 State University. Pupils who are eligible and demonstrate financial
34 need, as determined pursuant to the free application for federal
35 student aid, to help cover the costs of fees, books, supplies,
36 transportation, and living expenses at postsecondary institutions
37 will receive financial aid.

38 54714. The Legislature encourages the California Community
39 Colleges, the University of California, the California State
40 University, independent colleges, the California Student
Opportunity and Access Program, the Student Aid Commission,

1 and other nonprofit, business, or other community organizations
2 to provide support services as needed in coordination with ~~local~~
3 school districts.

4 *54715. On or before November 1, 2012, the Superintendent*
5 *shall submit to the Legislature a report that evaluates the early*
6 *college commitment program and recommends whether the*
7 *program should be continued.*

8 *54716. This article, as of January 1, 2014, is repealed, unless*
9 *a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before*
10 *January 1, 2014, deletes or extends that date.*