

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 27, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 1, 2007

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 890**

---

---

**Introduced by Senator Scott**

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Portantino)

**(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Denham, Ducheny, Maldonado,  
Padilla, Romero, and Wyland)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Arambula, Beall, Berryhill, *Evans*,  
Hancock, Parra, Solorio, and Torrico)

February 23, 2007

---

---

An act to add and repeal Article 6.3 (commencing with Section 54710) 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~~ *Early Commitment to College* 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, 2018~~, the ~~early college commitment~~ *Early Commitment to College* program. Participation by pupils and school districts in the program would be voluntary. The Superintendent of Public Instruction would be required, 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~~ *College Opportunity Zones*. A school that is designated as a ~~college opportunity zone~~ *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, *or the appropriate person in the case of foster youth*, the opportunity to sign “Save Me a Spot in College” pledge ~~cards~~ developed by the Superintendent. Schools not designated as a ~~college opportunity zone~~ *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~~. Participating school districts would be required to provide college information and college preparation events ~~targeted towards~~ *inclusive of* pupils who sign ~~pledge cards~~ *the pledge*.

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 ~~challenging~~ *college preparatory* coursework, complete and file a free application for federal student aid, and submit his or her grade point average to the Student Aid Commission by March 2 of his or her senior year. A pupil who signs the pledge and ~~completes~~ *is certified by his or her school district as having fulfilled* the requirements of the pledge would be preapproved to receive, upon completion of high school, a fee waiver under the California Community College Board of Governor’s fee waiver program for 2 years of enrollment at a California community college.

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~~ *recommendation* to the Legislature, on or before November 1, ~~2012~~ *2016*, ~~evaluating the early college commitment program and recommending on~~ 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~~ *college preparatory* coursework, and, if they choose to  
7 do so, seek 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~~ *Commitment to College*  
13 Program  
14

15 54710. ~~The early college commitment~~ *Early Commitment to*  
16 *College* program is hereby established for the purpose of  
17 accomplishing all of the following goals:

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

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

26 (c) Help families understand that college is attainable and  
27 affordable, that financial aid is available, and that with the right

1 preparation their children can go to college if they choose to do  
 2 so.

3 (d) Provide a clear path for pupils through middle schools, high  
 4 schools, community colleges, universities, and state and federal  
 5 financial aid programs, thereby improving opportunity and  
 6 efficiency.

7 (e) Strengthen the state’s historic promise of college access  
 8 made in the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education and express  
 9 this commitment directly to middle and high school pupils and  
 10 their families.

11 (f) Prepare the highly skilled workforce necessary to keep  
 12 California’s economy competitive, maintain the income and quality  
 13 of life for California residents, increase tax revenues, and provide  
 14 for improved civic and democratic participation.

15 54711. (a) (1) Participation by pupils and school districts in  
 16 the ~~early college commitment~~ *Early Commitment to College*  
 17 program is voluntary. A school district that chooses to participate  
 18 in the program is encouraged to do so districtwide, with all schools  
 19 in the district participating, and shall provide schoolwide college  
 20 information and college preparation events ~~targeted towards~~  
 21 *inclusive of* pupils who sign the “Save Me a Spot in College”  
 22 pledge cards.

23 (2) *For purposes of this article, all of the following apply:*

24 (A) “College Opportunity Zone” means the 30 percent of middle  
 25 schools and high schools with the highest proportion of low-income  
 26 pupils.

27 (B) “Low-income pupil” means a pupil who is eligible for free  
 28 or reduced-price meals.

29 (1)

30 (3) Schools designated as a ~~college opportunity zone~~ *College*  
 31 *Opportunity Zone*, in a participating school district, shall give all  
 32 pupils enrolled in grades 6 to 9, inclusive, and their parent or legal  
 33 guardian, or the appropriate person in the case of foster youth, the  
 34 opportunity to sign a “Save Me a Spot in College” pledge card.

35 (2)

36 (4) Schools not designated as a ~~college opportunity zone~~ *College*  
 37 *Opportunity Zone*, in a participating school district, shall give a  
 38 pupil who is eligible for free and reduced-price meals and is  
 39 enrolled in grades 6 to 9, inclusive, and his or her parent or legal  
 40 guardian, and all foster youth and the appropriate adult responsible

1 for that foster youth, the opportunity to sign a “Save Me a Spot in  
2 College” pledge-card.

3 ~~(b) A participating school district shall record data and track  
4 pupils who enroll in the program in their existing pupil records  
5 and provide necessary reports to the Superintendent to monitor  
6 and evaluate the program.~~

7 *(b) A participating school district shall certify that a pupil has  
8 completed the “Save Me a Spot in College” pledge pursuant to  
9 Section 54713 and shall track pupils enrolled in the Early  
10 Commitment to College program by recording and reporting  
11 participation data as directed by the Superintendent.*

12 *(c) Any school that participates in the federal free or  
13 reduced-price lunch program is encouraged to participate in the  
14 Early Commitment to College program.*

15 54712. The Superintendent shall perform the following  
16 responsibilities:

17 ~~(a) Identify school districts as college opportunity zones schools  
18 as College Opportunity Zones. In determining which school  
19 districts shall be identified as college opportunity zones, the  
20 Superintendent shall designate the 30 percent of school districts  
21 that operate middle and high schools with the highest proportion  
22 of low-income pupils. For purposes of this subdivision, a  
23 low-income pupil is a pupil who is eligible for free or reduced-price  
24 meals.~~

25 ~~(b) Develop the “Save Me a Spot in College” pledge-card and  
26 include on the card, which shall include the commitments made  
27 by the pupil and the major postsecondary and financial aid  
28 opportunities provided by the state.~~

29 ~~(c) Develop the letter and information materials about the  
30 program and college opportunities to be placed on the Web site of  
31 the department.~~

32 ~~(d)~~

33 *(c) Consult with the California Community Colleges, the  
34 University of California, the California State University, the  
35 Student Aid Commission, and independent colleges and universities  
36 in developing the pledge, letter, and supporting materials.*

37 ~~(e) Determine the form of special recognition pupils who meet  
38 the requirements of the pledge will receive at the time of high  
39 school graduation.~~

1 (d) Determine the form of recognition for pupils who have been  
 2 certified by his or her school district as having fulfilled the  
 3 requirements of the pledge pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section  
 4 54711.

5 ~~(f) Develop a method to collect data from participating school~~  
 6 ~~districts to track enrolled pupils and evaluate the effectiveness of~~  
 7 ~~the program.~~

8 (e) Develop a method by which participating schools shall  
 9 record and report participation in, and outcome data of, the Early  
 10 Commitment to College program to the Superintendent pursuant  
 11 to subdivision (b) of Section 54711.

12 ~~(g)~~

13 (f) Develop a letter addressed to pupils ~~and their parents~~ enrolled  
 14 in grades 6 to 9, inclusive, and their parents or legal guardians,  
 15 or the appropriate person in the case of foster youth, and signed  
 16 by the Governor and the Superintendent that describes the major  
 17 steps to prepare for college, including postsecondary career  
 18 technical education, and the major postsecondary and financial  
 19 aid opportunities available to students in California. Develop a  
 20 second letter that details the Early Commitment to College  
 21 program and that is directed to pupils eligible to sign the “Save  
 22 Me a Spot in College” pledge as set forth in subdivision (b). Make  
 23 ~~this letter~~ both letters and information on the Early Commitment  
 24 to College program available on the Web site of the department  
 25 and request all school districts to distribute the ~~letter~~ letters as  
 26 appropriate through existing means to all pupils and their parents.

27 ~~(h)~~

28 (g) In consultation with the Office of the Chancellor of the  
 29 California Community College, representatives of the community  
 30 college financial aid and business offices, and representatives of  
 31 school districts, determine a mechanism through which pupils who  
 32 have fulfilled the “Save Me a Spot in College” pledge requirements  
 33 can be preapproved to receive, upon completion of high school, a  
 34 fee waiver under the California Community College Board of  
 35 Governor’s fee waiver program for two years of enrollment at a  
 36 California community college.

37 54713. (a) A pupil who signs a pledge ~~and~~ declares a  
 38 commitment to prepare for college, finish high school, and enroll  
 39 in college and commits to do all of the following:

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

3 ~~(2) Take challenging college preparatory or career technical~~  
4 ~~coursework.~~

5 ~~(3) Seek proficiency in mathematics and in reading and writing~~  
6 ~~in English.~~

7 (2) *Enroll in college preparatory coursework, which may include*  
8 *A-G requirements and career technical coursework.*

9 (3) *Seek to achieve proficiency in mathematics and in reading*  
10 *and writing in English, as demonstrated on the California*  
11 *Standards Test or assessments of college-level proficiency.*

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

15 (5) Meet application and other requirements for university  
16 admission or enroll directly in community college ~~soon~~ *in the*  
17 *academic year* after high school graduation.

18 (b) At the time of enrollment, each pupil shall receive a  
19 certificate of participation in the ~~early college commitment~~ *Early*  
20 *Commitment to College* program, with his or her name, and bearing  
21 the signature of the Superintendent, *the local school district*  
22 *superintendent*, and the Governor.

23 (c) Participating pupils also shall receive a booklet of college  
24 information providing more specific information about eligibility  
25 requirements, preparation steps, and other pertinent information.  
26 ~~School districts shall provide information and services, through~~  
27 ~~existing programs, to the pupils who sign pledge cards through~~

28 (d) *School districts shall provide information and services,*  
29 *through existing programs to pupils, not exclusive of those who*  
30 *sign the pledge, through their middle school and high school years.*  
31 These “Roadmap to College” services shall include all of the  
32 following:

33 (1) Transcript review and academics assessment, leading to  
34 course planning for the pupil at the time of enrollment in the ~~early~~  
35 ~~college commitment~~ *Early Commitment to College* program and  
36 annual reporting to the pupil on how he or she is doing relative to  
37 state standards and other benchmarks.

38 (2) Information about the Golden State Scholarshare College  
39 Savings Trust (Article 19 (commencing with Section 69980) of

1 Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3) at the time of  
2 enrollment.

3 (3) A visit to at least one community college, including, but not  
4 limited to, exposure to career technical and transfer programs, and  
5 at least one four-year college *in grade 9 or 10*.

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

7 (5) Information on college admission and community college  
8 enrollment steps in grade 12.

9 (6) Information on the financial aid application process,  
10 including, but not limited to, the free application for federal student  
11 aid, *aid and grade point average verification*, in grade 12.

12 ~~(d) Pupils enrolled in an early college commitment program~~

13 *(e) Pupils enrolled in an Early Commitment to College program*  
14 who meet their pledge will be eligible to continue their  
15 postsecondary education at a California community college to  
16 pursue career technical education or a degree, or to transfer to a  
17 four-year university, or, if they meet the admission requirements  
18 and apply for admission, at the University of California or the  
19 California State University. *Pupils who meet all the eligibility*  
20 *requirements of the Cal Grant Program (Article 3 (commencing*  
21 *with Section 69530) of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Title 3) at the time*  
22 *of application will be eligible to receive a Cal Grant.*

23 ~~(e) A pupil who signs the pledge and completes the requirements~~

24 *(f) A pupil who signs the pledge and is certified as having*  
25 *fulfilled the requirements of the pledge pursuant to subdivision*  
26 *(b) of Section 54711 shall be preapproved to receive, upon*  
27 *completion of high school, a fee waiver under the California*  
28 *Community College Board of Governor's fee waiver program for*  
29 *two years of enrollment at a California community college.*

30 54714. *(a) The Legislature encourages the California*  
31 *Community Colleges, the University of California, the California*  
32 *State University, independent colleges, the California Student*  
33 *Opportunity and Access Program, the Student Aid Commission,*  
34 *and other nonprofit, business, or other community organizations*  
35 *to provide support services as needed in coordination with school*  
36 *districts.*

37 *(b) Nothing in this article prohibits public and private colleges*  
38 *and universities from maintaining existing, or entering into new,*  
39 *supplemental agreements with school districts and their pupils to*  
40 *offer a guarantee of admission, supplemental services,*

1 *supplemental financial aid, or other opportunities for alignment*  
2 *of prerequisites or curriculum.*

3 54715. On or before November 1, ~~2012~~, 2016, the  
4 Superintendent ~~shall submit to the Legislature a report that~~  
5 ~~evaluates the early college commitment program and recommends~~  
6 ~~whether the~~ *shall submit to the Legislature a recommendation on*  
7 *whether the* program should be continued.

8 54716. This article, as of January 1, ~~2014~~, 2018, is repealed,  
9 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before  
10 January 1, ~~2014~~, 2018, deletes or extends that date.

O