

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2446

Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani

February 19, 2010

An act to amend Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to graduation requirements.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2446, as introduced, Furutani. Graduation requirements.

Existing law prohibits a pupil from receiving a diploma of graduation from high school unless he or she completes specified requirements, including, but not limited to, completing one course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.

This bill would, add completion of a course in career technical education, as defined, as an alternative to the requirement that a pupil complete a course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.

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. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares
- 2 the following:
- 3 (1) The foundational principle of the Education Code is that all
- 4 pupils shall have access to equitable educational opportunities and
- 5 resources.
- 6 (2) The future of the state is dependent upon minimizing, if not
- 7 entirely alleviating, the inequities in our public schools so that all
- 8 pupils will have more equitable opportunities to learn skills needed

1 for entry into the workforce, to pursue postsecondary educational
2 goals, and to contribute to the social cohesion of the state.

3 (3) Current law specifies the courses a pupil must complete to
4 graduate from high school. However, too many pupils are dropping
5 out of high school or graduating without the necessary foundation
6 to succeed in the workplace or in postsecondary education.

7 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that:

8 (1) By specifying the types of coursework that pupils must
9 complete in order to graduate, pupils will have world class skills
10 and the workforce of the state will be competitive in the global
11 economy.

12 (2) Pupils will be prepared to meet the academic and technical
13 skills challenges of the high school curriculum and that they will
14 take advantage of the range of course options available to them.

15 (3) In order to increase the rigor of the coursework and to ensure
16 that pupils are prepared to meet the demands of the 21st century,
17 the courses required for high school graduation must be aligned
18 with the standards and frameworks that are adopted by the state
19 board.

20 SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is amended to
21 read:

22 51225.3. (a) Commencing with the 1988–89 school year, no
23 pupil shall receive a diploma of graduation from high school who,
24 while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed all of the
25 following:

26 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
27 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
28 otherwise specified.

29 (A) Three courses in English.

30 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

31 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
32 sciences.

33 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
34 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
35 one-semester course in American government and civics, and a
36 one-semester course in economics.

37 (E) One course in visual or performing arts-~~or~~, foreign language,
38 *or career technical education.* ~~For~~

1 (i) For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in
2 this subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
3 deemed a course in foreign language.

4 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career
5 technical education” means a course in a district-operated career
6 technical education program.

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

9 (2) Other coursework as the governing board of the school
10 district may by rule specify.

11 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
12 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
13 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study which may
14 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
15 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
16 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
17 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
18 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
19 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and
20 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course
21 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.