

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

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 amended, 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

1 pupils will have more equitable opportunities to learn skills needed
2 for entry into the workforce, to pursue postsecondary educational
3 goals, and to contribute to the social cohesion of the state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 ~~(A) Three courses in English.~~

31 ~~(B) Two courses in mathematics.~~

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

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

38 ~~(E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,~~
39 ~~or career technical education.~~

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.~~

22 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
23 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
24 graduation from high school:

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

28 (A) Three courses in English.

29 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

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

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

36 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or, foreign language,
37 or career technical education. For

38 (i) ~~For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in~~
39 ~~this subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be~~
40 ~~deemed a course in foreign language.~~

1 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career
2 technical education” means a course in a district-operated career
3 technical education program.

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

6 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
7 board of the school district.

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

19 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district
20 shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other
21 requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that
22 are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified
23 in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12,
24 transfers into the district from another school district or between
25 high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding
26 that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional
27 requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she
28 remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A
29 school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an
30 exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the
31 person holding the right to make educational decisions for the
32 pupil, if any of the requirements that are waived will affect the
33 pupil’s ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational
34 institution and shall provide information about transfer
35 opportunities available through the California Community
36 Colleges.