

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2010

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, *repeal, and add* 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, *commencing with the 2011–12 school year and until July 1, 2016*, 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:

1 (1) The foundational principle of the Education Code is that all
2 pupils shall have access to equitable educational opportunities and
3 resources.

4 (2) The future of the state is dependent upon minimizing, if not
5 entirely alleviating, the inequities in our public schools so that all
6 pupils will have more equitable opportunities to learn skills needed
7 for entry into the workforce, to pursue postsecondary educational
8 goals, and to contribute to the social cohesion of the state.

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

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

14 (1) By specifying the types of coursework that pupils must
15 complete in order to graduate, pupils will have world class skills
16 and the workforce of the state will be competitive in the global
17 economy.

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

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

26 SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is amended to
27 read:

28 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
29 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
30 graduation from high school:

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

34 (A) Three courses in English.

35 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

36 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
37 sciences.

38 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
39 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a

1 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
2 one-semester course in economics.

3 (E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,
4 or, *commencing with the 2011–12 school year*, career technical
5 education.

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

9 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career
10 technical education” means a course in a district-operated career
11 technical education program *that is aligned to the career technical*
12 *model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state*
13 *board*.

14 (iii) *This subparagraph does not require a school or school*
15 *district that currently does not offer career technical education*
16 *courses to start new career technical education programs for*
17 *purposes of this section*.

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

20 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
21 board of the school district.

22 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
23 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
24 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may
25 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
26 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
27 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
28 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
29 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
30 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and
31 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course
32 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

33 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district
34 shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other
35 requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that
36 are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified
37 in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12,
38 transfers into the district from another school district or between
39 high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding
40 that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional

1 requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she
2 remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A
3 school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an
4 exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the
5 person holding the right to make educational decisions for the
6 pupil, if any of the requirements that are waived will affect the
7 pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational
8 institution and shall provide information about transfer
9 opportunities available through the California Community
10 Colleges.

11 *(d) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2016, and,*
12 *as of January 1, 2017, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,*
13 *that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2017, deletes or*
14 *extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.*

15 *SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 is added to the Education Code, to*
16 *read:*

17 *51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while*
18 *in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of*
19 *graduation from high school:*

20 *(1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects*
21 *specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless*
22 *otherwise specified:*

23 *(A) Three courses in English.*

24 *(B) Two courses in mathematics.*

25 *(C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical*
26 *sciences.*

27 *(D) Three courses in social studies, including United States*
28 *history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a*
29 *one-semester course in American government and civics; and a*
30 *one-semester course in economics.*

31 *(E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.*
32 *For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this*
33 *subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be*
34 *deemed a course in foreign language.*

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

37 *(2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing*
38 *board of the school district.*

39 *(b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,*
40 *administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means*

1 *for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may*
2 *include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,*
3 *supervised work experience or other outside school experience,*
4 *career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses*
5 *offered by regional occupational centers or programs,*
6 *interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a*
7 *postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and*
8 *specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course*
9 *of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.*

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

28 *(d) This section shall become operative July 1, 2016.*