

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 15, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 2010

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. The bill would require the State Department of Education to report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2015, the number of pupils who took a career technical education course in order to fulfill this graduation requirement. *The bill would require the report also to include other specified information.*

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. (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
9 for entry into the workforce, to pursue postsecondary educational
10 goals, and to contribute to the social cohesion of the state.
11 (3) Current law specifies the courses a pupil must complete to
12 graduate from high school. However, too many pupils are dropping
13 out of high school or graduating without the necessary foundation
14 to succeed in the workplace or in postsecondary education.
15 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that:
16 (1) By specifying the types of coursework that pupils must
17 complete in order to graduate, pupils will have world class skills
18 and the workforce of the state will be competitive in the global
19 economy.
20 (2) Pupils will be prepared to meet the academic and technical
21 skills challenges of the high school curriculum and that they will
22 take advantage of the range of course options available to them.
23 (3) In order to increase the rigor of the coursework and to ensure
24 that pupils are prepared to meet the demands of the 21st century,
25 the courses required for high school graduation must be aligned
26 with the standards and frameworks that are adopted by the state
27 board.
28 SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is amended to
29 read:
30 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
31 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
32 graduation from high school:
33 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
34 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
35 otherwise specified:

1 (A) Three courses in English.

2 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

3 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
4 sciences.

5 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
6 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
7 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
8 one-semester course in economics.

9 (E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,
10 or, commencing with the 2011–12 school year, career technical
11 education.

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

15 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career
16 technical education” means a course in a district-operated career
17 technical education program that is aligned to the career technical
18 model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state
19 board, *including courses through a regional occupational program*
20 *or center operated by a county superintendent of schools or*
21 *pursuant to a joint powers agreement.*

22 (iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school
23 district that currently does not offer career technical education
24 courses to start new career technical education programs for
25 purposes of this section.

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

28 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
29 board of the school district.

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

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

(d) On or before January 1, 2015, the ~~State Department of Education~~ department shall report to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature the number of pupils who took a career technical education course in order to fulfill the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a). A school district may report the number of career technical education courses taken by pupils to fulfill the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System. *The report shall include all of the following information:*

(1) Reasons given by pupils for choosing to enroll in a career technical course to satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

(2) The type and number of career technical education courses that were available.

(3) The number of career technical courses that satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the University of California or the California State University.

(4) The extent to which the career technical education courses addressed local workforce needs.

(5) The impact on visual and performing arts and foreign language courses that resulted from pupils choosing to enroll in

1 *career technical courses to satisfy the graduation requirement*
2 *specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).*

3 (e) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2016, and,
4 as of January 1, 2017, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
5 that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2017, deletes or
6 extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

7 SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 is added to the Education Code, to
8 read:

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

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

15 (A) Three courses in English.

16 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

17 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
18 sciences.

19 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
20 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
21 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
22 one-semester course in economics.

23 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.
24 For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
25 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
26 deemed a course in foreign language.

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

29 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
30 board of the school district.

31 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
32 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
33 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may
34 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
35 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
36 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
37 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
38 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
39 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and

1 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course
2 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.
3 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district
4 shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other
5 requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that
6 are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified
7 in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12,
8 transfers into the district from another school district or between
9 high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding
10 that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional
11 requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she
12 remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A
13 school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an
14 exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the
15 person holding the right to make educational decisions for the
16 pupil, if any of the requirements that are waived will affect the
17 pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational
18 institution and shall provide information about transfer
19 opportunities available through the California Community
20 Colleges.
21 (d) This section shall become operative July 1, 2016.