

Introduced by Senator Hancock

February 26, 2009

An act to amend Section 52302 of the Education Code, relating to career technical education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 515, as introduced, Hancock. Career technical education.

Existing law requires the governing board of each regional occupational center or program, on or before July 1, 2010, to ensure that at least 90% of all state-funded courses offered by the center or program, in occupational areas in which both the program or center and the community college offer instruction, are part of occupational course sequences that target comprehensive skills. Existing law additionally requires, as a condition of receiving federal funds provided under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1998, and to the extent permitted under federal law, that school districts, regional occupational centers or programs, and community college districts comply with specified requirements relating to the development of course sequences.

This bill would additionally require, as a condition of receiving federal funds provided under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1998, and to the extent permitted under federal law, that school districts, regional occupational centers or programs, and community college districts demonstrate on or before January 1, 2012, that at least half of the course sequences offered for students in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, are linked to high priority workforce needs in the career sectors identified by the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the State of California or for the economic region where the regional occupational center or program,

community college district, or school district is located. School districts and regional occupational centers or programs operated in a rural county of the 6th, 7th, or 8th class, and school districts with an average daily attendance of fewer than 500 pupils would be exempt from this requirement.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Regional occupational centers and programs, partnership
4 academies, adult education programs, and career technical
5 education programs in secondary and postsecondary institutions
6 funded by the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology
7 Education Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 2301 et seq.) have
8 benefitted from the state's recent adoption of career technical
9 education standards for courses in the 15 career sectors.

10 (b) As a result of recent legislation, career technical education
11 programs have significantly increased the available sequences of
12 courses leading to skills certificates and articulation agreements
13 between secondary schools and community colleges.

14 (c) The development of the newly adopted California Career
15 Technical Education Plan outlines a coordinated vision for career
16 technical education programs in secondary and postsecondary
17 institutions.

18 (d) The need for highly skilled workers in high priority career
19 sectors, as documented by the State Department of Labor and
20 Workforce Development and the Workforce Investment Board,
21 outpaces the number of qualified individuals available.

22 SEC. 2. Section 52302 of the Education Code is amended to
23 read:

24 52302. (a) On or before July 1, 2010, the governing board of
25 each regional occupational center or program shall ensure that at
26 least 90 percent of all state-funded courses offered by the center
27 or program, in occupational areas in which both the program or
28 center and the community college offer instruction, are part of
29 occupational course sequences that target comprehensive skills.
30 Each occupational sequence shall do all of the following:

1 (1) Result in an occupational skill certificate developed in
2 cooperation with the appropriate employer advisory board created
3 under Section 52302.2.

4 (2) Provide prerequisite courses that are needed to enter
5 apprenticeship or postsecondary vocational certificate or degree
6 programs. Where possible, sequenced courses shall be linked to
7 certificate and degree programs in the region.

8 (3) Focus on occupations requiring comprehensive skills leading
9 to high entry-level wages or the possibility of significant wage
10 increases after a few years on the job, or both.

11 (4) Offer as many courses as possible that have been approved
12 by the University of California as courses meeting the “A-G”
13 admissions requirements.

14 (b) (1) On or before July 1, 2008, the governing board of each
15 regional occupational center or program shall develop a plan for
16 establishing sequences of courses, and certify to the department,
17 that those sequences have been developed, as described in
18 subdivision (a). The board shall consult with the superintendents
19 of the school districts served by the center or program and
20 presidents of community colleges in the area during the
21 development of the plan.

22 (2) The plan shall be presented at a public hearing by the
23 governing board of each school district served by the regional
24 occupational center or program and by the county board of
25 education.

26 (3) Community college boards with identified articulated
27 programs shall also review the plans in a public session.

28 (4) In developing the plan, each regional occupational program
29 or center shall consult with school districts and community college
30 districts located within the region served by the program or center
31 and with the relevant occupational advisers and local workforce
32 investment board to ensure the plan meets the vocational education
33 needs of high school pupils in the region by providing sequences
34 of courses that begin with middle or high school introductory
35 courses, including, but not limited to, occupational skill courses
36 provided by high schools or regional occupational programs or
37 centers.

38 (5) The plan shall maximize the use of local, state, and federal
39 resources in helping high school pupils enter comprehensive skill

1 occupations or apprenticeship programs, or continue education in
2 college, or all of these, after graduating from high school.

3 (6) The plan shall include strategies for filling gaps in courses
4 or other services needed to make the sequences effective in meeting
5 the needs of pupils in developing skills and attending community
6 college upon graduation from high school.

7 (7) Each center or program shall submit a copy of the approved
8 plan to the appropriate community college or colleges in the region
9 and the Superintendent on or before September 1, 2008. Every
10 four years after this date, on or before July 1, each center and
11 program shall submit an update to the plan to the local community
12 college or colleges and the Superintendent.

13 (c) As a condition of receiving federal funds provided under
14 the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education
15 Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 2301 et seq.), or a successor of that
16 act, and to the extent permitted by federal law, school districts,
17 regional occupational centers or programs, and community college
18 districts shall do all of the following:

19 (1) Develop course sequences that meet the requirements of this
20 section according to the schedule set forth in this paragraph.

21 (A) On or before July 1, 2008, school districts, regional
22 occupational centers or programs, and community college districts
23 shall have adopted an approved plan as required under this section.

24 (B) On or before July 1, 2009, school districts, regional
25 occupational centers or programs, and community college districts
26 shall have established course sequences as required under this
27 section that include at least one-third of the courses offered by the
28 regional occupational center or program in occupational areas in
29 which both the program or center and the community college offer
30 instruction.

31 (C) On or before July 1, 2010, school districts, regional
32 occupational centers or programs, and community college districts
33 shall have established course sequences as required under this
34 section that include at least two-thirds of the courses offered by
35 the regional occupational center or program in occupational areas
36 in which both the program or center and the community college
37 offer instruction.

38 (D) *On or before January 1, 2012, school districts, regional*
39 *occupational centers or programs, and community college districts*
40 *shall demonstrate that at least half of the course sequences offered*

for students in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, are linked to high priority workforce needs in the career sectors identified by the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the State of California, or for the economic region where the regional occupational center or program, community college district, or school district is located. School districts and regional occupational centers or programs operated in a rural county of the sixth, seventh, or eighth class, and school districts with an average daily attendance of fewer than 500 pupils are exempt from the requirements of this subparagraph. However, these exempted programs are encouraged to work with local workforce investment boards to ensure that students enrolled in career technical education programs will have obtained skills linked to the workforce needs in the region.

(2) Provide pupils who are participating in vocational sequences with information and experiences designed to increase their postgraduation work and school options, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(A) Information about the admissions requirements of the University of California and California State University.

(B) Information about the placement requirements of the local community college or colleges.

(C) Information about higher education options related to the interests of the pupil.

(D) Encourage visits to local colleges and universities offering programs that allow pupils to gain additional skills and degrees in related occupations.

(E) Information and referrals to employers for internships, summer employment opportunities, and employment after graduation from high school.

(3) School districts, regional occupational centers or programs, and community college districts that do not develop course sequences on or before the dates established under this subdivision, and have not received a waiver under subdivision (d), shall enter into a corrective action plan with the department and shall meet any timelines established by the Superintendent.

(d) (1) The department, with the assistance of the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, shall meet with each program or center and the community college or colleges in the region no later than the 2009–10 fiscal year to validate that

1 course sequences meeting the requirements of this section have
2 been developed. These meetings shall be conducted using the
3 existing resources of the department and shall be consistent with
4 the standards developed pursuant to Section 51226.

5 (2) The department and the office of the chancellor shall provide
6 technical assistance to programs or centers and community colleges
7 that have developed articulated sequences for less than half of the
8 courses offered by the program or center.

9 (3) The Superintendent may waive the requirements of
10 subdivision (a) for programs or centers and community colleges
11 located in rural areas of the state if the Superintendent finds that
12 development of sequences is infeasible because of the distance,
13 travel time, or safety between the center or program and the
14 community college.