

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1922

Introduced by Assembly Member Luz Rivas

January 13, 2020

An act to amend Sections 51210, 51220, and 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1922, as introduced, Luz Rivas. Pupil instruction: science requirements: climate change.

(1) Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to include certain areas of study, including, among others, English, mathematics, social sciences, science, and visual and performing arts, as specified.

This bill, with respect to both of the above-referenced adopted courses of study, would require the science area of study to include an emphasis on the causes and effects of climate change. The bill would require that appropriate coursework including this material be offered to pupils as soon as possible, commencing no later than the 2021–22 school year.

(2) Existing law requires a pupil to complete designated coursework while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school. Existing law requires pupils, as part of this requirement, to complete 2 courses in science, including biological and physical sciences.

This bill, commencing with the class graduating in the 2025–26 school year, would add the requirement that at least one of those science courses include material on the causes and effects of climate change.

Because the bill would impose new duties on school districts, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 51210 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 51210. (a) The adopted course of study for grades 1 to 6,
4 inclusive, shall include instruction, beginning in grade 1 and
5 continuing through grade 6, in the following areas of study:
6 (1) English, including knowledge of, and appreciation for
7 literature and the language, as well as the skills of speaking,
8 reading, listening, spelling, handwriting, and composition.
9 (2) Mathematics, including concepts, operational skills, and
10 problem solving.
11 (3) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of
12 anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,
13 psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the
14 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
15 the history, resources, development, and government of California
16 and the United States of America; the development of the American
17 economic system, including the role of the entrepreneur and labor;
18 the relations of persons to their human and natural environment;
19 eastern and western cultures and civilizations; contemporary issues;
20 and the wise use of natural resources.
21 (4) Science, including the biological and physical aspects, with
22 emphasis on the processes of experimental ~~inquiry~~ and *inquiry*,
23 on the place of humans in ecological ~~systems~~. *systems, and the*
24 *causes and effects of climate change. Appropriate coursework*
25 *including material on the causes and effects of climate change*

1 *shall be offered to pupils as soon as possible, commencing no later*
2 *than the 2021–22 school year.*

3 (5) Visual and performing arts, including instruction in the
4 subjects of dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, aimed at the
5 development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative
6 expression.

7 (6) Health, including instruction in the principles and practices
8 of individual, family, and community health.

9 (7) Physical education, with emphasis upon the physical
10 activities for the pupils that may be conducive to health and vigor
11 of body and mind, for a total period of time of not less than 200
12 minutes each 10 schooldays, exclusive of recesses and the lunch
13 period.

14 (8) Other studies that may be prescribed by the governing board.

15 (b) (1) A complaint that a school district or county
16 superintendent of schools has not complied with the instructional
17 minute requirements of paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) may be
18 filed with a school district or county superintendent of schools
19 pursuant to the Uniform Complaint Procedures set forth in Chapter
20 5.1 (commencing with Section 4600) of Division 1 of Title 5 of
21 the California Code of Regulations.

22 (2) A complainant not satisfied with the decision of a school
23 district or county superintendent of schools may appeal the decision
24 to the department pursuant to Chapter 5.1 (commencing with
25 Section 4600) of Division 1 of Title 5 of the California Code of
26 Regulations and shall receive a written appeal decision within 60
27 days of the department’s receipt of the appeal.

28 (3) If a school district or county superintendent of schools finds
29 merit in a complaint, or the Superintendent finds merit in an appeal,
30 the school district or county superintendent of schools shall provide
31 a remedy to all affected pupils, parents, and guardians.

32 (c) The Legislature finds and declares that neither the original
33 provisions of this section, nor any subsequent amendments to it,
34 were intended to create a private right of action. However, nothing
35 in this subdivision shall restrict or expand the existing right of any
36 party to seek relief from noncompliance with this section pursuant
37 to a writ of mandate.

38 SEC. 2. Section 51220 of the Education Code is amended to
39 read:

1 51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,
2 inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:

3 (a) English, including knowledge of and appreciation for
4 literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,
5 listening, and speaking.

6 (b) (1) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of
7 anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,
8 psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the
9 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
10 the history, resources, development, and government of California
11 and the United States of America; instruction in our American
12 legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice
13 systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal
14 and civil law and the State and Federal Constitutions; the
15 development of the American economic system, including the role
16 of the entrepreneur and labor; the relations of persons to their
17 human and natural environment; eastern and western cultures and
18 civilizations; human rights issues, with particular attention to the
19 study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust,
20 and contemporary issues.

21 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, genocide may include the
22 Armenian Genocide. The “Armenian Genocide” means the torture,
23 starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, which included
24 death marches into the Syrian desert, by the rulers of the Ottoman
25 Turkish Empire and the exile of more than 500,000 innocent people
26 during the period from 1915 to 1923, inclusive.

27 (c) World language or languages, beginning not later than grade
28 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,
29 reading, and writing the particular language.

30 (d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities
31 that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as
32 required by Section 51222.

33 (e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with
34 emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific
35 ~~investigation~~ and *investigation*, on the place of humans in
36 ecological systems, *on the causes and effects of climate change*,
37 and with appropriate applications of the interrelation and
38 interdependence of the sciences. *Appropriate coursework including*
39 *material on the causes and effects of climate change shall be*

1 *offered to pupils as soon as possible, commencing no later than*
2 *the 2021–22 school year.*

3 (f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop
4 mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into
5 problem-solving procedures.

6 (g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,
7 and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic
8 appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

9 (h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer
10 education, family and consumer sciences education, industrial arts,
11 general business education, or general agriculture.

12 (i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the
13 purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the
14 occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the
15 personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant
16 to the career desires and needs of the pupils.

17 (j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a
18 knowledge of the Vehicle Code and other laws of this state relating
19 to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper acceptance of personal
20 responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation of the causes,
21 seriousness, and consequences of traffic accidents, and to develop
22 the knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe operation of
23 motor vehicles. A course in automobile driver education shall
24 include education in the safe operation of motorcycles.

25 (k) Other studies as may be prescribed by the governing board.

26 SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as amended
27 by Section 17 of Chapter 865 of the Statutes of 2018, is amended
28 to read:

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

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

35 (A) Three courses in English.

36 (B) Two courses in mathematics. If the governing board of a
37 school district requires more than two courses in mathematics for
38 graduation, the governing board of the school district may award
39 a pupil up to one mathematics course credit pursuant to Section
40 51225.35.

1 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
2 sciences. *Commencing with the class graduating in the 2025–26*
3 *school year, at least one of these courses shall include material*
4 *on the causes and effects of climate change.*

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, world language,
10 or, commencing with the 2012–13 school year, career technical
11 education.

12 (i) For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
13 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
14 deemed a course in world 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 center
20 or program 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 (iv) If a school district or county office of education elects to
27 allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement
28 imposed by this subparagraph, the governing board of the school
29 district or county office of education, before offering that
30 alternative to pupils, shall notify parents, teachers, pupils, and the
31 public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of
32 all of the following:

33 (I) The intent to offer career technical education courses to fulfill
34 the graduation requirement specified in this subparagraph.

35 (II) The impact that offering career technical education courses,
36 pursuant to this subparagraph, will have on the availability of
37 courses that meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the
38 California State University and the University of California, and
39 whether the career technical education courses to be offered
40 pursuant to this subparagraph are approved to satisfy those

1 eligibility requirements. If a school district elects to allow a career
2 technical education course to satisfy the requirement imposed by
3 this subparagraph, the school district shall comply with subdivision
4 ~~(m)~~ (l) of Section 48980.

5 (III) The distinction, if any, between the high school graduation
6 requirements of the school district or county office of education,
7 and the eligibility requirements for admission to the California
8 State University and the University of California.

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

11 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
12 board of the school district.

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

25 (c) On or before July 1, 2017, the department shall submit a
26 comprehensive report to the appropriate policy committees of the
27 Legislature on the addition of career technical education courses
28 to satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of
29 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), including, but not limited to, the
30 following information:

31 (1) A comparison of the pupil enrollment in career technical
32 education courses, world language courses, and visual and
33 performing arts courses for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,
34 inclusive, to the pupil enrollment in career technical education
35 courses, world language courses, and visual and performing arts
36 courses for the 2012–13 to 2016–17 school years, inclusive.

37 (2) The reasons, reported by school districts, that pupils give
38 for choosing to enroll in a career technical education course to
39 satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph
40 (1) of subdivision (a).

- 1 (3) The type and number of career technical education courses
2 that were conducted for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,
3 inclusive, compared to the type and number of career technical
4 education courses that were conducted for the 2012–13 to 2016–17
5 school years, inclusive.
- 6 (4) The number of career technical education courses that
7 satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the
8 University of California or the California State University.
- 9 (5) The extent to which the career technical education courses
10 chosen by pupils are aligned with the California Career Technical
11 Education Model Curriculum Standards, and prepare pupils for
12 employment, advanced training, and postsecondary education.
- 13 (6) The number of career technical education courses that also
14 satisfy the visual and performing arts requirement, and the number
15 of career technical education courses that also satisfy the world
16 language requirement.
- 17 (7) Annual pupil dropout and graduation rates for the 2011–12
18 to 2014–15 school years, inclusive.
- 19 (d) For purposes of completing the report described in
20 subdivision (c), the Superintendent may use existing state resources
21 and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not available or
22 sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept grants,
23 and receive donations and other financial support from public or
24 private sources for purposes of this section.
- 25 (e) For purposes of completing the report described in
26 subdivision (c), the Superintendent may accept support, including,
27 but not limited to, financial and technical support, from high school
28 reform advocates, teachers, chamber organizations, industry
29 representatives, research centers, parents, and pupils.
- 30 (f) This section shall become inoperative on the earlier of the
31 following two dates:
- 32 (1) On July 1, immediately following the first fiscal year after
33 the enactment of the act that adds this paragraph in which the
34 number of career technical education courses that, as determined
35 by the department, satisfy the world language requirement for
36 admission to the California State University and the University of
37 California is at least twice the number of career technical education
38 courses that meet these admission requirements as of January 1,
39 2012. This section shall be repealed on the following January 1,
40 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before

1 that date, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes
2 inoperative and is repealed. It is the intent of the Legislature that
3 new career technical education courses that satisfy the world
4 language requirement for admission to the California State
5 University and the University of California focus on world
6 languages aligned with career preparation, emphasizing real-world
7 application and technical content in related career and technical
8 education courses.

9 (2) On July 1, 2022, and, as of January 1, 2023, is repealed,
10 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before
11 January 1, 2023, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes
12 inoperative and is repealed.

13 SEC. 4. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as amended
14 by Section 18 of Chapter 865 of the Statutes of 2018, is amended
15 to read:

16 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
17 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
18 graduation from high school:

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

22 (A) Three courses in English.

23 (B) Two courses in mathematics. If the governing board of a
24 school district requires more than two courses in mathematics for
25 graduation, the governing board of the school district may award
26 a pupil up to one mathematics course credit pursuant to Section
27 51225.35.

28 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
29 sciences. *Commencing with the class graduating in the 2025–26*
30 *school year, at least one of these courses shall include material*
31 *on the causes and effects of climate change.*

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 world language.
37 For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
38 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
39 deemed a course in world language.

1 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been
2 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.
3 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
4 board of the school district.
5 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
6 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
7 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may
8 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
9 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
10 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
11 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
12 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
13 postsecondary educational institution. Requirements for graduation
14 and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed
15 course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the
16 public.
17 (c) If a pupil completed a career technical education course that
18 met the requirements of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of
19 subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding
20 this section, before the inoperative date of that section, that course
21 shall be deemed to fulfill the requirements of subparagraph (E) of
22 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of this section.
23 (d) This section shall become operative upon the date that
24 Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding this section,
25 becomes inoperative.
26 SEC. 5. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
27 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
28 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
29 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
30 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.