

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 3, 2019
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 20, 2019
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2019–20 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 331

**Introduced by Assembly Members Medina, Bloom, Bonta, Gonzalez,
Ramos, and Weber**
~~(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cristina Garcia and Kalra)~~
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Carrillo, Cristina Garcia, Kalra, and
Salas)*

January 31, 2019

An act to amend Sections 51225.3 and 51226.7 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 331, as amended, Medina. Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: ethnic studies.

(1) 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. These graduation requirements include the completion of 3 years of courses in English and 3 years of courses in social studies, including one-year courses in United States history and geography and world history, culture, and geography, a one-semester course in American government and civics, and a one-semester course in economics.

Existing law requires the Instructional Quality Commission to develop, and the State Board of Education to adopt, modify, or revise, a model curriculum in ethnic studies. Existing law also encourages each school district and charter school that maintains any of grades 9 to 12,

inclusive, and that does not otherwise offer a standards-based ethnic studies curriculum to offer, beginning in the school year following the adoption of the model curriculum, a course of study in ethnic studies based on the model curriculum.

This bill would expressly include pupils enrolled in a charter school, as being subject to the high school graduation requirements. The bill would add the completion of a one-semester course in ethnic studies, based on the model curriculum in ethnic studies developed by the ~~Instructional Quality Commission~~, *commission*, to the high school graduation requirements commencing with the 2024–25 school year. The bill would authorize local educational agencies, including charter schools, to require a full-year course in ethnic studies at their discretion, as specified. The bill would authorize, subject to the course offerings of a local educational agency, including a charter school, a pupil to satisfy the ethnic studies course requirement by completing either (A) an ethnic studies course, or (B) an ethnic studies course taught as a course in another subject, including, but not limited to, subjects that are required for a diploma of graduation from high school, except as specified. The bill would require a pupil who completes a course described in (B) above to also accrue credit for coursework in the subject that the course is offered, including, if applicable, credit towards satisfying a course required for a diploma of graduation from high school. *The bill would specify that a pupil enrolled in a charter school is required to complete other coursework requirements adopted by the governing body of the charter school to graduate from high school.*

Because the bill would add new duties to local educational agencies, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(2) 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 51225.3 of the Education Code, as
2 amended by Section 17 of Chapter 865 of the Statutes of 2018, is
3 amended to read:

4 51225.3. (a) A pupil, including a pupil enrolled in a charter
5 school, shall complete all of the following while in grades 9 to 12,
6 inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high
7 school:

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

11 (A) Three courses in English.

12 (B) Two courses in mathematics. If the governing board of a
13 school district requires more than two courses in mathematics for
14 graduation, the governing board of the school district may award
15 a pupil up to one mathematics course credit pursuant to Section
16 51225.35.

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

26 (i) For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
27 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
28 deemed a course in world language.

29 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career
30 technical education” means a course in a district-operated career
31 technical education program that is aligned to the career technical
32 model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state
33 board, including courses through a regional occupational center
34 or program operated by a county superintendent of schools or
35 pursuant to a joint powers agreement.

36 (iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school
37 district that currently does not offer career technical education

1 courses to start new career technical education programs for
2 purposes of this section.

3 (iv) If a school district or county office of education elects to
4 allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement
5 imposed by this subparagraph, the governing board of the school
6 district or county office of education, before offering that
7 alternative to pupils, shall notify parents, teachers, pupils, and the
8 public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of
9 all of the following:

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

12 (II) The impact that offering career technical education courses,
13 pursuant to this subparagraph, will have on the availability of
14 courses that meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the
15 California State University and the University of California, and
16 whether the career technical education courses to be offered
17 pursuant to this subparagraph are approved to satisfy those
18 eligibility requirements. If a school district elects to allow a career
19 technical education course to satisfy the requirement imposed by
20 this subparagraph, the school district shall comply with subdivision
21 (m) of Section 48980.

22 (III) The distinction, if any, between the high school graduation
23 requirements of the school district or county office of education,
24 and the eligibility requirements for admission to the California
25 State University and the University of California.

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

28 (G) (i) Commencing with the 2024–25 school year, a
29 one-semester course in ethnic studies based on the model
30 curriculum developed pursuant to Section 51226.7. A local
31 educational agency, including a charter school, may require a
32 full-year course in ethnic studies at its discretion pursuant to
33 paragraph (2).

34 (ii) Subject to the course offerings of a local educational agency,
35 including a charter school, a pupil may fulfill the requirement of
36 clause (i) through the completion of either of the following types
37 of courses:

38 (I) An ethnic studies course.

39 (II) (ia) Except as provided in sub-subclause (ib), an ethnic
40 studies course taught as a course in another subject, including, but

1 not limited to, subjects that are required for a diploma of graduation
2 from high school pursuant to this section.

3 (ib) A course that does not use ethnic studies content as the
4 primary content through which the subject is taught may not be
5 used to satisfy the requirement of clause (i).

6 (iii) A pupil completing a course described in subclause (II) of
7 clause (ii) shall also accrue credit for coursework in the subject
8 that the course is offered, including, if applicable, credit towards
9 satisfying a course required for a diploma of graduation from high
10 school pursuant to this section.

11 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
12 board of the school ~~district~~ *district or the governing body of the*
13 *charter school*.

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

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

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

38 (2) The reasons, reported by school districts, that pupils give
39 for choosing to enroll in a career technical education course to

1 satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph
2 (1) of subdivision (a).

3 (3) The type and number of career technical education courses
4 that were conducted for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,
5 inclusive, compared to the type and number of career technical
6 education courses that were conducted for the 2012–13 to 2016–17
7 school years, inclusive.

8 (4) The number of career technical education courses that
9 satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the
10 University of California or the California State University.

11 (5) The extent to which the career technical education courses
12 chosen by pupils are aligned with the California Career Technical
13 Education Model Curriculum Standards, and prepare pupils for
14 employment, advanced training, and postsecondary education.

15 (6) The number of career technical education courses that also
16 satisfy the visual and performing arts requirement, and the number
17 of career technical education courses that also satisfy the world
18 language requirement.

19 (7) Annual pupil dropout and graduation rates for the 2011–12
20 to 2014–15 school years, inclusive.

21 (d) For purposes of completing the report described in
22 subdivision (c), the Superintendent may use existing state resources
23 and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not available or
24 sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept grants,
25 and receive donations and other financial support from public or
26 private sources for purposes of this section.

27 (e) For purposes of completing the report described in
28 subdivision (c), the Superintendent may accept support, including,
29 but not limited to, financial and technical support, from high school
30 reform advocates, teachers, chamber organizations, industry
31 representatives, research centers, parents, and pupils.

32 (f) This section shall become inoperative on the earlier of the
33 following two dates:

34 (1) On July 1, immediately following the first fiscal year after
35 the enactment of the act that adds this paragraph in which the
36 number of career technical education courses that, as determined
37 by the department, satisfy the world language requirement for
38 admission to the California State University and the University of
39 California is at least twice the number of career technical education
40 courses that meet these admission requirements as of January 1,

1 2012. This section shall be repealed on the following January 1,
2 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before
3 that date, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes
4 inoperative and is repealed. It is the intent of the Legislature that
5 new career technical education courses that satisfy the world
6 language requirement for admission to the California State
7 University and the University of California focus on world
8 languages aligned with career preparation, emphasizing real-world
9 application and technical content in related career and technical
10 education courses.

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

15 SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as amended
16 by Section 18 of Chapter 865 of the Statutes of 2018, is amended
17 to read:

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

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

25 (A) Three courses in English.

26 (B) Two courses in mathematics. If the governing board of a
27 school district requires more than two courses in mathematics for
28 graduation, the governing board of the school district may award
29 a pupil up to one mathematics course credit pursuant to Section
30 51225.35.

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

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

37 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or world language.
38 For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
39 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
40 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 (G) (i) Commencing with the 2024–25 school year, a
4 one-semester course in ethnic studies based on the model
5 curriculum developed pursuant to Section 51226.7. A local
6 educational agency, including a charter school, may require a
7 full-year course in ethnic studies at its discretion pursuant to
8 paragraph (2).

9 (ii) Subject to the course offerings of a local educational agency,
10 including a charter school, a pupil may fulfill the requirement of
11 clause (i) through the completion of either of the following types
12 of courses:

13 (I) An ethnic studies course.

14 (II) (ia) Except as provided in sub-subclause (ib), an ethnic
15 studies course taught as a course in another subject, including, but
16 not limited to, subjects that are required for a diploma of graduation
17 from high school pursuant to this section.

18 (ib) A course that does not use ethnic studies content as the
19 primary content through which the subject is taught may not be
20 used to satisfy the requirement of clause (i).

21 (iii) A pupil completing a course described in subclause (II) of
22 clause (ii) shall also accrue credit for coursework in the subject
23 that the course is offered, including, if applicable, credit towards
24 satisfying a course required for a diploma of graduation from high
25 school pursuant to this section.

26 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
27 board of the school ~~district~~ *district or the governing body of the*
28 *charter school*.

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

1 (c) If a pupil completed a career technical education course that
2 met the requirements of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of
3 subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding
4 this section, before the inoperative date of that section, that course
5 shall be deemed to fulfill the requirements of subparagraph (E) of
6 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of this section.

7 (d) This section shall become operative upon the date that
8 Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding this section,
9 becomes inoperative.

10 SEC. 3. Section 51226.7 of the Education Code is amended to
11 read:

12 51226.7. (a) The Instructional Quality Commission shall
13 develop, and the state board shall adopt, modify, or revise, a model
14 curriculum in ethnic studies to ensure quality courses of study in
15 ethnic studies. The model curriculum shall be developed with
16 participation from faculty of ethnic studies programs at universities
17 and colleges with ethnic studies programs and a group of
18 representatives of local educational agencies, a majority of whom
19 are kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, teachers who have relevant
20 experience or education background in the study and teaching of
21 ethnic studies.

22 (b) The model curriculum shall be written as a guide to allow
23 school districts to adapt their courses to reflect the pupil
24 demographics in their communities. The model curriculum shall
25 include examples of courses offered by local educational agencies
26 that have been approved as meeting the A–G admissions
27 requirements of the University of California and the California
28 State University, including, to the extent possible, course outlines
29 for those courses.

30 (c) On or before December 31, 2019, the Instructional Quality
31 Commission shall submit the model curriculum to the state board
32 for adoption, and the state board shall adopt the model curriculum
33 on or before March 31, 2020.

34 (d) The Instructional Quality Commission shall provide a
35 minimum of 45 days for public comment before submitting the
36 model curriculum to the state board.

37 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that local educational
38 agencies submit course outlines for ethnic studies for approval as
39 A–G courses.

1 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
2 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
3 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
4 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
5 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

O