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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular

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**Bill No:** SB 158 **Hearing Date:** April 24, 2019  
**Author:** Allen  
**Version:** January 23, 2019  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** No  
**Consultant:** Brandon Darnell

**Subject:** Pupil assessment: academic achievement.

## SUMMARY

This bill repeals an obsolete code section that required the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt statewide academically rigorous content standards in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing, and mathematics by January 1, 1998, and in the core curriculum areas of history/social science and science by November 1, 1998, and to take other related actions.

## BACKGROUND

Existing law, which has been inoperative since July 1, 2011:

- 1) Required the SBE to adopt statewide academically rigorous content standards, by no later than January 1, 1998, pursuant to the recommendations of the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards, in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing, and mathematics to serve as the basis for assessing the academic achievement of individual pupils and of schools, school districts, and the California educational system, and by no later than November 1, 1998, to adopt these standards in the core curriculum areas of history/social science and science.
- 2) Required the SBE to adopt statewide performance standards in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing, mathematics, history/social science, and science based on the recommendations made by the Superintendent of a contractor or contractors.
- 3) Required the SBE to require the contractor or contractors to submit performance standards to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) and to the SBE by no later than a specified date that allows sufficient opportunity for the SPI to make a recommendation to the SBE and for the SBE to conduct regional hearings prior to the adoption of the performance standards.
- 4) Authorized the SBE to modify any proposed content standards or performance standards prior to adoption and may adopt content and performance standards in individual core curriculum areas as those standards are submitted to the SBE.
- 5) Required the state performance standards to be established against specific grade level benchmarks of academic achievement for each subject area tested and to be based on the knowledge and skills that pupils will need in order to

succeed in the information-based, global economy of the 21st century, but not including personal behavioral standards or skills, including, but not limited to, honesty, sociability, ethics, or self-esteem.

- 6) Required the standards adopted to be for the purpose of guiding state decisions regarding the development, adoption, and approval of assessment instruments pursuant to this chapter and does not mandate any actions or activities by school districts.
- 7) Required the State Board of Education (SBE), before adopting academic content and performance standards, to hold regional hearings for the purpose of giving parents and other members of the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed standards.
- 8) Required the SBE to ensure that the statewide assessment system yields valid, reliable individual pupil scores and, where applicable, aggregate school scores, school district scores, and statewide scores of pupils and assesses basic academic skills and content standards, including the use of a direct writing assessment or other applied academic skills if deemed valid and reliable and if resources are made available for their use.
- 9) Required the SBE to ensure, to the extent feasible and as otherwise required, that assessments developed or contracted for by the state be aligned with the adopted statewide content and performance standards.
- 10) Required the SBE to review the existing curriculum frameworks for conformity with the new statewide standards and modify the curriculum frameworks where appropriate to bring them into alignment with the standards.
- 11) Required the SBE adopt regulations for the conduct and administration of the testing and assessment program.
- 12) Required the SBE to adopt a regulation for minimum security procedures that test and assessment publishers and school districts must follow to ensure the security and integrity of test and assessment questions and materials. (Education Code § 60605)

## ANALYSIS

This bill repeals all of the provisions above, which have all been inoperative since July 1, 2011.

## STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author's office, "Education Code section 60605 requires that the SBE adopt statewide content standards in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing, and mathematics to assess academic achievement of students, schools, school districts, and the entire California educational system. However, these content standards are no longer utilized

and this code section became inoperative on July 1, 2011. SB 158 repeals this code section because it is obsolete and no longer needed.”

- 2) **Successor academic content standards adopted.** The inoperative code section repealed by this bill required the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt content standards in reading, writing, mathematics, history/social science, and science before 1999. Each of these standards, except for history/social science, has subsequently been updated by the SBE, as follows:
  - a) The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts was adopted in August 2010 and modified in March 2013.
  - b) The Common Core State Standards for Mathematics was adopted in August 2010 and modified in January 2013.
  - c) The Next Generation Science Standards for California Public Schools was adopted in September 2013.
  
- 3) **1998 History/Social Science content standards remain in effect.** The History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools was adopted in October 1998 and remain in effect. Notwithstanding that these standards are now nearly 20 years old, the associated curriculum framework was updated and adopted in July 2016. This illustrates a persistent deficiency and inconsistency in the method of updating and adopting academic content standards and their associated frameworks. The Instructional Quality Commission is empowered to regularly update the curriculum frameworks, and does so on an eight-year cycle. Unfortunately, there is no existing law provision that provides for the regular updating of academic content standards. Instead, new legislation is required for each update.
  
- 4) **Prior Legislation.** SB 1048 (Allen, 2018) was identical to this bill and passed this committee, but was subsequently amended to relate to intercity rail services. SB 1048 was held in the Assembly Rules Committee.

SB 1200 (Hancock, Ch. 654, Stats. 2012) authorized the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to recommend, and the SBE to adopt the Common Core college and career readiness standards and authorized the review and modification of standards for 8<sup>th</sup>-grade mathematics, as specified.

SB 1 (Steinberg, Ch. 2, Stats. of 2010, 5<sup>th</sup> Ext. Sess.) Required the Academic Content Standards Commission, which is established, to develop academic content standards in language arts and mathematics that are at least 85 percent the same as the national standards being developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative, and required the Commission to report its recommendations to the SBE by July 15, 2010 and to accept or reject, with written reasons for rejection, by August 2, 2010.

AB 2116 (Lara, 2012) requires the California Department of Education to contract for a multiyear independent study of the implementation of the common core standards. AB 2116 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1033 (Feuer, 2011) would have established a content standards review commission to revise and modify all or any of the academic content standards (including 8<sup>th</sup>-grade common core mathematics). AB 1033 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**SUPPORT**

None received

**OPPOSITION**

None received

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