

## Assembly Bill No. 790

### CHAPTER 616

An act to amend Section 52372.5 of, and to add and repeal Section 52372.7 of, the Education Code, relating to career technical education.

[Approved by Governor October 8, 2011. Filed with  
Secretary of State October 8, 2011.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 790, Furutani. Career technical education: Linked Learning Pilot Program.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop, in conjunction with specified persons and entities, a report that explores the feasibility of expanding and establishing career multiple pathway programs, as defined, in California.

This bill, commencing with the 2012–13 school year, would establish the Linked Learning Pilot Program to be administered by the State Department of Education according to specified requirements for the purpose of implementing districtwide linked learning programs, as defined, in all participating school districts. The bill would authorize a school district that maintains any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to apply to the Superintendent to operate a pilot program. The bill would require the department to review these applications and would authorize the Superintendent to initially approve no more than 20 applications. The bill would require that, if funds become available for purposes of the pilot program, the Superintendent allocate these funds on a competitive basis, based on the applications submitted. The bill would require the Superintendent to transmit a report to the Legislature and the Governor by September 30, 2016, that makes specified evaluations and recommendations.

The bill would make these provisions inoperative on July 1, 2017, and would repeal them as of January 1, 2018.

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

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) California is at a critical crossroads in terms of the challenges it faces in reforming its public high school system.

(b) California is facing an unprecedented state funding gap and will face continued fiscal problems in the future if it does not produce an educated and career-ready workforce.

(c) California must lead efforts to improve graduation rates, close achievement and opportunity gaps, and prepare all pupils for success in

pursuing both living-wage careers and a variety of postsecondary learning experiences.

(d) California must embrace new, innovative approaches to educational transformation that are likely to lead to high successful outcomes for our pupils, families, communities, and local and state economies.

(e) California operates a variety of effective career technical education training programs that meet local needs and that continue to evolve the options to meet economic demand.

(f) The linked learning approach is one of the most promising high school transformational strategies and can be expanded to play a pivotal role in enabling all of our pupils to be well prepared for life and workforce demands in a 21st century global economy and society.

SEC. 2. Section 52372.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

52372.5. (a) For purposes of this section, a “linked learning program” is a program that is all of the following:

(1) A multiyear, comprehensive high school program of integrated academic and technical study that is organized around a broad theme, interest area, or industry sector, including, but not necessarily limited to, the industry sectors identified in the model standards adopted by the state board pursuant to Section 51226.

(2) A program that ensures that all pupils have curriculum choices that will prepare them for career entry and a full range of postsecondary options, including two- and four-year college, apprenticeship, and formal employment training.

(3) A program that is comprised, at a minimum, of the following components:

(A) An integrated core curriculum that meets the eligibility requirements for admission to the University of California and the California State University and is delivered through project-based learning and other engaging instructional strategies that intentionally bring real-world context and relevance to the curriculum where broad themes, interest areas, and career technical education are emphasized.

(B) An integrated technical core of a sequence of at least four related courses, that may reflect career technical education standards-based courses, that provide pupils with career skills, that are aligned to and underscore academic principles, and to the extent possible fulfill the academic core requirements listed in subparagraph (A).

(C) A series of work-based learning opportunities that begin with mentoring and job shadowing and evolve into intensive internships, school-based enterprises, or virtual apprenticeships.

(D) Support services, including supplemental instruction in reading and mathematics, that help pupils master the advanced academic and technical content that is necessary for success in college and career.

(b) The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary for Education, the California Community Colleges, the University of California, the California State University, the Employment Development Department, both houses of the California Legislature, teachers, chamber

organizations, industry representatives, research centers, parents, school administrators, representatives of regional occupational centers and programs, community-based organizations, labor organizations, and others deemed appropriate by the Superintendent, shall develop a report that explores the feasibility of establishing and expanding additional linked learning programs in California, including the costs and merits associated with expansion of these programs. Linked learning programs created for high schools may include, but are not limited to, California partnership academies, regional occupational centers and programs, charter schools, academies, small learning communities, and other career-themed small schools.

(c) The report described in subdivision (b) shall do all of the following:

(1) Identify regulations, policies, and practices that need to be added, deleted, or amended in order to promote the development and expansion of linked learning programs.

(2) Set forth a reasonable timeline for the development and expansion of linked learning programs.

(3) Include at least all of the following components:

(A) Assessment of the current capacity of the department for the purpose of maximizing the development of these programs.

(B) Identifying the possible roles and responsibilities of other departments or agencies to assist in developing or expanding linked learning programs.

(C) An assessment of the appropriateness of school districts fulfilling the requirements set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 51228 by developing industry-focused linked learning programs, including those described in this section.

(D) Methods for developing and sharing models of integrated curriculum and instruction.

(E) Strategies for increasing the course options and instructional time for pupils in high school.

(F) Plans for increasing opportunities for high-quality learning based on real-world applications in industry and careers.

(G) Methods for improving alignment of curriculum between middle schools and high schools with career instruction, exploration, and counseling for middle school pupils.

(H) Methods for improving coordination and articulation between high schools and postsecondary institutions, including, but not limited to, California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California.

(I) Recommendations for increasing the supply of teachers who can teach effectively in a linked learning setting that aims to prepare pupils for a full range of postsecondary options. Necessary specialized skills include, but are not limited to, the abilities to design interdisciplinary projects and use project-based learning as an instructional strategy, work with other teachers in a team-teaching arrangement, develop curriculum that effectively integrates academic and technical content, design and utilize high-quality

work-based learning to reinforce lessons in both academic and technical courses, and develop authentic pupil assessments.

(J) Recommendations for increasing the supply of schoolsite and district administrators who can effectively create and manage schools that are implementing one or more industry-focused linked learning programs. Necessary specialized skills include, but are not limited to, the abilities to develop and sustain partnerships with industry partners, recruit and retain uniquely qualified teachers, guide development of integrated curriculum, understand needs for and provide teacher professional development, guide development of comprehensive guidance systems that integrate college advising and career counseling, guide development of a coordinated and sequenced work-based learning component, and utilize data to assess pupil readiness for college and career.

(K) Recommendations for supporting regional coalitions in planning and developing programs.

(L) Evaluation of current linked learning programs, including partnership academies, regional occupational centers or programs and postsecondary linked learning programs, including middle colleges and early college models.

(M) Recommendations for increasing and improving in-school support services.

(N) Recommendations for incorporating new measures into the state's accountability system to better assess the results of these linked learning programs.

(O) Assessment of the budgetary implications of offering all pupils access to these linked learning programs.

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

(e) In developing the report, the Superintendent may accept support including, but not necessarily limited to, financial and technical support, from high school reform advocates, teachers, chamber organizations, industry representatives, research centers, parents, and pupils.

(f) The Superintendent shall report to the Legislature as to the status of completing the report and any preliminary recommendations no later than July 1, 2009.

(g) The Superintendent shall submit a final report with recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor no later than December 1, 2009.

SEC. 3. Section 52372.7 is added to the Education Code, to read:

52372.7. (a) Commencing with the 2012–13 school year, the Linked Learning Pilot Program is hereby established for the purpose of implementing districtwide linked learning programs, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 52372.5, in all participating school districts.

(b) The pilot program shall be administered by the department and shall contain all of the following requirements:

(1) Each participating school district shall incorporate small-sized schools and smaller groupings of pupils within new and existing high schools.

(2) Rigorous linked learning programs shall be implemented that guide pupils through course sequences leading to mastery of standards, high school graduation, and transition to postsecondary education or employment. These programs shall include career technical education courses as defined by the California State Plan for Career Technical Education.

(3) Policies and agreements shall be adopted by participating school districts that promote concurrent enrollment and dual credit with community colleges and universities.

(4) Problem-based instructional methodologies, inquiry learning approaches, and applied learning strategies shall be adopted within all subject areas.

(5) Pupil progress through high school shall be determined by mastery of grade-level standards-based performance benchmarks developed by the participating school district.

(6) Linked learning programs shall be implemented by participating school districts within the district's existing state and local resources.

(7) Participating school districts shall involve local business, labor, parent, and community partners to advise the district on the development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of the pilot program.

(c) (1) A school district that maintains any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, may apply to the Superintendent to operate a Linked Learning Pilot Program in accordance with this section. The department shall review these applications and the Superintendent may initially approve no more than 20 applications.

(2) (A) Each applicant school district shall demonstrate its plans to implement the components of a linked learning program, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 52372.5. Consideration shall be given to factors related to the geographic diversity, type, and size of a school district, and the extent to which a school district's pilot program would receive financial and in-kind support from the business and civic community or funding from government or foundation grants.

(B) If funds become available for the pilot program, the Superintendent shall allocate these funds on a competitive basis to applicant school districts based on the applications submitted pursuant to paragraph (1).

(d) (1) On or before September 30, 2016, the Superintendent shall transmit a report to the Legislature and the Governor that documents an evaluation that includes both of the following:

(A) The costs and merits of the pilot program, including pupil outcome data that includes, but is not limited to, pupil dropout and graduation rates, the number and percentage of participating pupils who meet the requirements and prerequisites for admission to California public institutions of postsecondary education, and workforce outcome data, which may include

the number or percentage of pupils who earn a certificate, license, or the equivalent in a designated occupation.

(B) The Superintendent's recommendations regarding the need for additional statutory changes to facilitate the statewide expansion of the Linked Learning Pilot Program.

(2) A report submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(e) The Superintendent may develop regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

(f) The Superintendent shall use existing state and federal resources to implement the provisions of this section.

(g) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2017, and, as of January 1, 2018, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2018, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.