

Introduced by Senator Dodd

January 11, 2017

An act to add Section 51206.5 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 135, as introduced, Dodd. Pupil instruction: media literacy.

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to offer courses in specified areas of study, including social sciences.

This bill would require the State Board of Education, in the next revision of instructional materials or curriculum frameworks in social sciences for grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to include media literacy, as defined. The bill would require the State Department of Education to make available on its Internet Web site a list of resources and materials on media literacy and to ensure that media literacy training opportunities are made available for use in professional development programs for teachers.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) The social implications of technological development are
- 4 pervasive, and the reach and influence of digital media platforms
- 5 will continue to expand.

1 (2) Nearly two-thirds of American adults use social networking
2 sites, and social media usage is ubiquitous among the youngest
3 adults, with over 90 percent of young adults using social media.

4 (3) Two out of every three adults say fabricated news stories
5 cause a great deal of confusion about the basic facts of current
6 issues and events.

7 (4) A recent Stanford University study showed that 82 percent
8 of middle school students struggled to distinguish advertisements
9 from news stories.

10 (5) During the final, critical months of the 2016 presidential
11 campaign, 20 top-performing false election stories from hoax Web
12 sites and hyperpartisan blogs generated 8,711,000 shares, reactions,
13 and comments on social media; where, within the same time period,
14 the 20 best-performing election stories from 19 major news Internet
15 Web sites generated a total of 7,367,000 shares, reactions, and
16 comments on Facebook.

17 (6) It is necessary to confront questions about the moral
18 obligations and ethical standards regarding what appears on social
19 media networks and digital platforms.

20 (7) Access to technology literacy and digital media skills
21 education for all young students is a challenge, especially for
22 underrepresented and economically disadvantaged communities.

23 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that young adults
24 are prepared with technology literacy and computer skills in order
25 to utilize social media sites responsibly.

26 SEC. 2. Section 51206.5 is added to the Education Code, to
27 read:

28 51206.5. (a) For purposes of this section, “media literacy”
29 means the ability to encode and decode the symbols transmitted
30 via electronic or digital media and the ability to synthesize, analyze,
31 and produce mediated messages.

32 (b) In the next revision of instructional materials or curriculum
33 frameworks in the social sciences for grades 1 to 12, inclusive, the
34 state board shall ensure that media literacy is integrated into social
35 science curricula. Components of media literacy may be designed
36 to include the ability to measure 21st century skills of teachers and
37 pupils using the international standards defined by the International
38 Society for Technology in Education so that teachers may
39 effectively use technology and digital resources within their
40 instructional day, measure and teach the critical 21st century skills

1 pupils need to succeed on California’s next-generation online
2 assessments, and prepare pupils for college and career objectives.
3 The skills to be measured may include, but are not limited to, all
4 of the following:
5 (1) Creativity and innovation.
6 (2) Communication and collaboration.
7 (3) Research and information fluency.
8 (4) Critical thinking and problem solving.
9 (5) Digital citizenship.
10 (6) Technology operations and concepts.
11 (7) Information, media, and technological literacy.
12 (c) The department shall make available to school districts on
13 its Internet Web site a list of resources and materials on media
14 literacy, and shall ensure that approved media literacy training
15 opportunities are made available for use in professional
16 development programs for teachers.

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