

Introduced by Senator Dodd
(Principal coauthor: Senator Jackson)
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Mullin)
(Coauthors: Senators Bradford and Leyva)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Voepel)

January 3, 2018

An act to add Section 51206.4 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 830, as introduced, Dodd. Pupil instruction: media literacy: model curriculum.

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. Existing law establishes the Instructional Quality Commission and requires the commission to, among other things, recommend curriculum frameworks to the State Board of Education.

This bill would require the commission to develop, and the state board to adopt, reject, or modify, a model curriculum in media literacy for kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, for voluntary use by educators. The bill would require the commission to submit the model curriculum to the state board on or before January 1, 2020, and would require the state board to adopt, reject, or modify the model curriculum on or before March 31, 2020, in accordance with specified procedural requirements. The bill would require the State Department of Education to make available on its Internet Web site a list of resources and instructional materials on media literacy, including media literacy 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.
6 (2) Nearly two-thirds of American adults use social networking
7 sites, and social media usage is ubiquitous among the youngest
8 adults, with over 90 percent of young adults using social media.
9 (3) Two out of every three adults say fabricated news stories
10 cause a great deal of confusion about the basic facts of current
11 issues and events.
12 (4) A recent Stanford University study showed that 82 percent
13 of middle school pupils struggled to distinguish advertisements
14 from news stories.
15 (5) During the final, critical months of the 2016 presidential
16 campaign, 20 top-performing false election stories from hoax Web
17 sites and hyperpartisan blogs generated 8,711,000 shares, reactions,
18 and comments on social media; where, within the same time period,
19 the 20 best-performing election stories from 19 major news Internet
20 Web sites generated a total of 7,367,000 shares, reactions, and
21 comments on Facebook.
22 (6) It is necessary to confront questions about the moral
23 obligations and ethical standards regarding what appears on social
24 media networks and digital platforms.
25 (7) Access to media literacy education for all pupils is a
26 challenge, especially for underrepresented and economically
27 disadvantaged communities.
28 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to ensure that
29 young adults are prepared with media literacy skills necessary to
30 safely, responsibly, and critically consume and use social media
31 and other forms of media.
32 SEC. 2. Section 51206.4 is added to the Education Code, to
33 read:

1 51206.4. (a) For purposes of this section, “digital citizenship”
2 and “media literacy” are broad terms that encompass consumption
3 and use of media and digital products and are defined as follows:

4 (1) “Digital citizenship” means a diverse set of skills related to
5 current technology and social media, including the norms of
6 appropriate, responsible, and healthy behavior.

7 (2) “Media literacy” means the ability to access, analyze,
8 evaluate, and use media and encompasses the foundational skills
9 that lead to digital citizenship.

10 (b) The Instructional Quality Commission shall develop, and
11 the state board shall adopt, reject, or modify, a model curriculum
12 in media literacy for kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive,
13 for voluntary use by educators.

14 (c) The model curriculum in media literacy shall be designed
15 for the purpose of providing instruction in the safe and responsible
16 use of media and supporting pupils’ use of critical thinking skills
17 when consuming media. The model curriculum in media literacy
18 shall address, but not be limited to, instructing pupils in how to
19 do all of the following:

20 (1) Safely and responsibly use and consume media.

21 (2) Access relevant and accurate information through media.

22 (3) Analyze media content in a critical way.

23 (4) Evaluate the comprehensiveness, currency, relevance,
24 credibility, authority, and accuracy of media content.

25 (d) The model curriculum in media literacy may be designed
26 to promote the development of pupils’ skills in all of the following:

27 (1) Creativity and innovation.

28 (2) Communication and collaboration.

29 (3) Research and information fluency.

30 (4) Critical thinking and problem solving.

31 (5) Digital citizenship.

32 (6) Technology operations and concepts.

33 (7) Information, media, and technological literacy.

34 (8) Concepts of media representation and stereotyping.

35 (e) The model curriculum in media literacy shall do both of the
36 following:

37 (1) Provide model lessons and activities for each grade level
38 and identify supporting instructional materials for use in its
39 implementation.

1 (2) Identify the ways in which it aligns with, and is supportive
2 of, the common core academic content standards and the Next
3 Generation Science standards.

4 (f) In developing the model curriculum in media literacy, the
5 Instructional Quality Commission shall convene an advisory group
6 comprised of experts in media literacy education. A majority of
7 this group shall be current public school elementary or secondary
8 classroom teachers who have a professional teaching credential
9 that is valid under state law and who have experience or expertise
10 in media literacy education.

11 (g) The Instructional Quality Commission shall hold a minimum
12 of two public hearings for the public to provide input on the model
13 curriculum in media literacy in accordance with the Bagley-Keene
14 Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120)
15 of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
16 Code).

17 (h) On or before January 1, 2020, the Instructional Quality
18 Commission shall submit to the state board the model curriculum
19 in media literacy.

20 (i) On or before March 31, 2020, the state board shall adopt,
21 reject, or modify the model curriculum in media literacy submitted
22 by the Instructional Quality Commission at a subsequent public
23 meeting.

24 (j) If the state board modifies the model curriculum in media
25 literacy submitted by the Instructional Quality Commission, the
26 state board shall do both of the following:

27 (1) Explain, in writing, the reasons for the modifications to the
28 Governor and the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the
29 Legislature.

30 (2) Provide written reasons for its revisions in a meeting
31 conducted pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act
32 (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part
33 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). The state
34 board shall not adopt the model curriculum in media literacy at
35 the same meeting in which it provides its written reasons but shall
36 adopt the revisions at a subsequent meeting conducted no later
37 than July 31, 2020.

38 (k) If the state board rejects the model curriculum in media
39 literacy, the state board shall transmit to the Superintendent, the
40 Governor, and the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the

1 Legislature a specific written explanation of the reasons for the
2 rejection of the model curriculum in media literacy.

3 (l) Following the adoption of the model curriculum in media
4 literacy, the Superintendent shall post the curriculum on its Internet
5 Web site for voluntary use by educators.

6 (m) On or before July 1, 2019, the department shall make
7 available to school districts on its Internet Web site a list of
8 resources and instructional materials on media literacy, including
9 media literacy professional development programs for teachers.

10 (n) Following the adoption of the model curriculum in media
11 literacy, the department's Internet Web site shall have a mechanism
12 accessible to school districts and teachers to provide feedback on
13 the model curriculum in media literacy.

14 (o) Private resources may be used as funding sources to
15 supplement the development of a model curriculum in media
16 literacy.

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