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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

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**Bill No:** SB 947 **Hearing Date:** March 14, 2018  
**Author:** Jackson  
**Version:** January 30, 2018  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Ian Johnson

**Subject:** Pupil instruction: digital citizenship and media literacy

## SUMMARY

This bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), on or before December 1, 2019, and in consultation with an advisory committee, to identify best practices and recommendations for instruction in digital citizenship, Internet safety, and media literacy.

## BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the SPI to establish procedures within the California Department of Education (CDE) to accomplish, among other things, all of the following:
  - a) Annually identify the critical needs for which effective educational programs and practices are to be identified, developed, and disseminated to public schools.
  - b) Coordinate the identification and development of effective programs and practices with appropriate offices in the CDE, schools, school districts, county offices of education, institutions of higher education, the Legislature, business and industry, and the community.
  - c) Ensure that all programs developed are objectively evaluated for impact on pupil learning, cost-effectiveness, and the overall instructional program.
  - d) Develop and implement procedures to ensure that educators throughout the state are made aware of effective programs and practices.
- 2) Establishes the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), as an advisory body to the State Board of Education (SBE). The IQC is responsible for recommending curriculum frameworks, developing criteria for the evaluation of instructional materials, and evaluating and recommending instructional materials adoptions.

## ANALYSIS

This bill requires the SPI, on or before December 1, 2019, and in consultation with the executive director of the SBE and an advisory committee, to identify best practices and recommendations for instruction in digital citizenship, Internet safety, and media literacy, and report to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature on

strategies to implement the best practices and recommendations statewide. Further, this bill:

- 1) Requires the best practices and recommendations to be developed in consultation with an advisory committee, convened by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, which must include representatives from all of the following:
  - a) California County Superintendents Educational Services Association.
  - b) California School Boards Association.
  - c) Experts in digital citizenship, Internet safety, and media literacy.
  - d) Other stakeholders, including pupils, certificated teacher librarians, parent organizations, diverse current classroom teachers, and administrators.
- 2) Specifies that the advisory committee be comprised of a majority of certificated teacher librarians and current certificated classroom teachers with experience teaching media literacy.
- 3) Specifies that recommendations from the advisory committee may include, but are not limited to:
  - a) Revisions to the state learning standards and the state educational technology plan.
  - b) Model policies and procedures on digital citizenship, Internet safety, and media literacy developed by the School Superintendents Association.
  - c) School district processes necessary to develop customized school district policies and procedures on electronic resources and Internet safety that can be used within a school district technology plan.
  - d) Best practices, resources, and models for instruction in digital citizenship, Internet safety, and media literacy.
  - e) Best practices, resources, and models for instruction that are compliant with the federal Universal Service E-rate program administered by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company and federal mandates established in the federal Children's Internet Protection Act.
  - f) Strategies that will support school districts in local implementation of the best practices and recommendations developed by the department, including strategies for delivering professional development to educators and administrators.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “As kids and teens in California use the immense power of technology and digital media to explore, connect, create, and learn in ways never before imagined, they face incredible opportunities as well as potential pitfalls. By creating a pathway to incorporate instruction on digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy into California’s public schools, SB 947 will help our kids learn how to safely, responsibly, and effectively use the extraordinary media and technology resources available to them.

Currently, there are not standards for teaching students about aspects of digital citizenship (i.e., cyber bullying, sexting, privacy, digital footprints, and “fake news”). Educators are faced with the often-overwhelming challenges presented by technology usage by students. SB 947 would establish an advisory board comprised of education experts, working in tandem with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction’s office, to develop best practices and strategies that support school districts, including professional development for educators and administrators.”

- 2) ***Digital Citizenship.*** According to the California Department of Education (CDE), a digital citizen is a member of a worldwide community linked by the Internet. Digital citizenship is defined as the quality of habits, actions, and consumption patterns that impact the ecology of digital content and communities or the quality of a response to membership in a digital community.

The CDE’s report “Empowering Learning: California Education Technology Blueprint, 2014–2017” includes the following recommendation: “Ensure student safety by outlining policies and best practices to prevent cyberbullying and protect student data.

It is important to teach students about the ethical, legal, and safe use of online information and resources. It is also important to help students learn about how they can protect themselves and their personal information in online environments.

The CDE and stakeholder organizations can disseminate samples of use and safety policies, technology plans, insurance agreements, social media guidelines, anti-piracy, and acceptable use policies. The CDE and stakeholder organizations can also highlight and distribute curriculum resources, including those found in the Model School Library Standards for California Schools and the California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards.”

- 3) ***Media Literacy.*** According to the National Association for Media Literacy Education, media literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate and create media in a variety of forms.

The Center for Media Literacy offers another definition: “Media literacy empowers people to be both critical thinkers and creative producers of an increasingly wide

range of messages using image, language, and sound. It is the skillful application of literacy skills to media and technology messages.”

The California Model School Library Standards for California Schools, adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in 2011, incorporate “information literacy” skills, in which students “learn to access, evaluate, use, and integrate information and ideas found in print, media, and digital resources, enabling them to function in a knowledge-based economy and technologically oriented society.”

The state’s content standards for English Language Arts students also include at least one reference to media literacy. Students in grades 9-12 are expected to learn to “Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.”

4) ***Related Legislation***

SB 830 (Dodd) requires the Instructional Quality Commission to develop, and the SBE to adopt, modify, or revise, a model curriculum in media literacy.

5) ***Previous Legislation***

SB 203 (Jackson, 2017) was substantially similar to this bill. The measure passed this Committee on April 19, 2017, and was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**SUPPORT**

Common Sense Kids Action  
California School Boards Association  
California School Library Association

**OPPOSITION**

None received

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