



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 12 2019

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 28 without my signature.

This bill would establish the State Seal of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to be voluntarily affixed to the diploma or transcript of a high school graduate who has attained proficiency in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

I applaud the author's goals of this bill. We must encourage California students to become proficient in STEM fields and have the necessary skills to enter the workforce. That is why I supported funding the Golden State Teacher Grant Program with an \$89 million appropriation in the 2019-20 Budget Act. Under this program, grants will be made available to students enrolled in a teacher credential program who agrees to teach in a high-need field, including STEM, at a priority school for four years.

For now, schools can already offer students a seal of recognition based on their own standards, and the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma already recognizes high school graduates who have mastered a variety of subjects, including mathematics and science.

Since many students lack access to high quality STEM coursework and there is a shortage of qualified instructors, I cannot support the creation of a state seal of STEM at this time.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom

