

2 **2SSB 5508** - H COMM AMD **ADOPTED 4-11-97**  
3 By Committee on Appropriations

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is essential  
8 for children in the public schools to read well early in elementary  
9 school. The legislature further finds that clear and visible goals,  
10 assessments to determine the reading level at each building,  
11 measurements of annual building improvement, and creating  
12 accountability in the educational system will result in a significant  
13 increase in the reading ability of children.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act may be known and cited as the  
15 primary grades reading accountability act.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) By November 1, 1997, the commission on  
17 student learning, in consultation with the superintendent of public  
18 instruction, shall make recommendations to the legislature, governor,  
19 and state board of education regarding a state-wide accountability  
20 system for reading in the elementary grades. The accountability system  
21 must assess each school individually against its own baseline, schools  
22 with similar characteristics, and schools state-wide. In preparing its  
23 recommendations, the commission shall consult with school district  
24 officials and school district board members who have established  
25 reading goals, incentives, and accountability programs. The commission  
26 also shall consult with legislators, parents, classroom teachers,  
27 principals, and other educators.

28 (2) In developing the recommendations, the commission shall  
29 consider:

30 (a) The establishment of a state-wide reading goal or goals;

31 (b) The establishment of a financial incentive program for schools  
32 that meet or exceed their reading goals;

1 (c) The establishment of a program for technical assistance, and  
2 when appropriate, intervention, for schools that persistently do not  
3 meet their goals;

4 (d) The development of a process to evaluate principals'  
5 effectiveness in providing leadership in reaching the fourth grade  
6 reading goal;

7 (e) The reporting of annual state-wide progress that includes  
8 information on reading achievement by school building, school district,  
9 and state-wide; and

10 (f) Whether other accountability reports, actions, or programs  
11 should be developed.

12 (3) Recommendations pertaining to state-wide goals, financial  
13 incentives, and intervention shall be based on the reading test scores  
14 of students taking the state-wide elementary grade assessment in RCW  
15 28A.630.885.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.230.190 and 1990 c 101 s 6 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) Every school district is encouraged to test pupils in grade two  
19 by an assessment device designed or selected by the school district.  
20 This test shall be used to help teachers in identifying those pupils in  
21 need of assistance in the skills of reading, writing, mathematics, and  
22 language arts. The test results are not to be compiled by the  
23 superintendent of public instruction, but are only to be used by the  
24 local school district.

25 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare and  
26 conduct, with the assistance of school districts, a standardized norm-  
27 referenced achievement test to be given annually beginning in the 1997-  
28 98 school year to all pupils in grade ~~((four))~~ three. The test shall  
29 assess students' skill in reading~~((and mathematics~~((and language~~~~  
30 ~~arts))~~) and shall focus upon appropriate input variables. Results of  
31 ~~((such))~~ the test~~((s))~~ shall be compiled by the superintendent of  
32 public instruction, who shall make those results available annually to  
33 the legislature~~((and to all local school districts~~ ~~((and~~  
34 ~~subsequently))~~). School districts shall make results available to  
35 parents of those children tested. The results shall allow parents to  
36 ascertain the achievement levels and input variables of their children  
37 as compared with the other students within the district, the state and,  
38 if applicable, the nation.

1 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually  
2 to the legislature on the achievement levels of students in grade  
3 (~~four~~) three as measured by the norm-referenced standardized  
4 achievement test.

5 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.320.205 and 1993 c 336 s 1006 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning with the 1994-95 school year, to provide the local  
8 community and electorate with access to information on the educational  
9 programs in the schools in the district, each school shall publish  
10 annually a school performance report and deliver the report to each  
11 parent with children enrolled in the school and make the report  
12 available to the community served by the school. The annual  
13 performance report shall be in a form that can be easily understood and  
14 be used by parents, guardians, and other members of the community who  
15 are not professional educators to make informed educational decisions.  
16 As data from the assessments in RCW 28A.630.885 becomes available, the  
17 annual performance report should enable parents, educators, and school  
18 board members to determine whether students in the district's schools  
19 are attaining mastery of the student learning goals under RCW  
20 28A.150.210, and other important facts about the schools' performance  
21 in assisting students to learn. The annual report shall make  
22 comparisons to a school's performance in preceding years and shall  
23 project goals in performance categories.

24 (2) The annual performance report shall include, but not be limited  
25 to: A brief statement of the mission of the school and the school  
26 district; enrollment statistics including student demographics;  
27 expenditures per pupil for the school year; a summary of student scores  
28 on all mandated tests; a concise annual budget report; student  
29 attendance, graduation, and dropout rates; information regarding the  
30 use and condition of the school building or buildings; a brief  
31 description of the restructuring plan for the school; and an invitation  
32 to all parents and citizens to participate in school activities. In  
33 addition to the annual performance report, each school shall annually  
34 present a summary of student scores on all state-mandated tests at an  
35 open meeting of the district's board of directors. The report shall  
36 include comparisons to the school's performance in preceding years.

37 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop by June  
38 30, 1994, a model report form, which shall also be adapted for

1 computers, that schools may use to meet the requirements of subsections  
2 (1) and (2) of this section.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If any provision of this act or its  
4 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
5 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
6 persons or circumstances is not affected.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
8 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
9 June 30, 1997, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
10 void."

11 Correct the title.

1        EFFECT: Strikes substantive provisions, and adds the following new  
2 provisions:  
3        The Commission on Student Learning, in consultation with the  
4 Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), must provide  
5 recommendations by November 1, 1997, to the Legislature, Governor, and  
6 State Board of Education regarding a state-wide reading accountability  
7 system. The assessment system must be capable of assessing each school  
8 individually against its own baseline, schools with similar  
9 characteristics, and schools state-wide. The commission must consider  
10 several factors in developing the reading assessment system, including  
11 reading goals, financial incentives, technical assistance, the role of  
12 elementary school principals in meeting the reading goal, and reports.  
13 The commission's recommendations pertaining to state-wide goals must be  
14 based on reading test scores of students taking the 1997 state-wide  
15 fourth grade assessment developed by the commission.  
16        The fourth grade state-wide test is moved to the third grade.  
17 Currently, the SPI must test fourth grade students in reading,  
18 mathematics, and language arts using a standardized achievement test  
19 (CTBS/4), and test students using the fourth grade assessment developed  
20 by the commission. Beginning in the 1997-98 school year, the  
21 standardized achievement test is moved to the third grade level. Third  
22 grade students will be tested in reading and mathematics. The SPI must  
23 make results available to the Legislature and to school districts.  
24 School districts must make results available to parents of the children  
25 tested. Fourth grade students will still take the fourth grade  
26 assessment developed by the commission.  
27        In addition to the annual school performance report, schools must  
28 present a summary of student scores on all state-mandated tests in an  
29 open school board meeting. The report summarizing student scores must  
30 include comparisons to the school's performance in preceding years.  
31        A null and void clause is added.

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