
HOUSE BILL 2849

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Talcott, Johnson, B. Thomas, Kastama, L. Thomas, Benson, Lambert, Alexander, Robertson, Pennington, McDonald, Lisk, Cairnes, Radcliff, Ballasiotes, Zellinsky, Backlund, D. Schmidt, Delvin, Carlson, Sump, Chandler, Smith and Thompson

Read first time 01/21/98. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to student achievement accountability; amending RCW
2 28A.300.320 and 28A.230.190; adding a new section to chapter 28A.630
3 RCW; creating new sections; and providing expiration dates.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 PART I

6 ESTABLISHMENT OF READING ACCOUNTABILITY GOALS

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 101.** (1) By December 15, 1998, each school
8 district board of directors shall:

9 (a) Select the reading standard results on either the 1997 or 1998
10 Washington assessment of student learning as the school district's
11 initial baseline reading standard;

12 (b) Establish a three-year, district-wide goal to increase the
13 percentage of students who meet or exceed the reading standard on the
14 fourth grade Washington assessment of student learning. The three-year
15 percentage increase goal may not be less than the district's total
16 percentage of students who did not meet the baseline reading standard
17 multiplied by thirty-three percent;

1 (c) Specify the annual district-wide percentage improvement
2 increments to meet the three-year goal; and

3 (d) Direct each elementary school to establish a three-year goal
4 for its fourth grade students, subject to approval by the board. The
5 aggregate of the elementary goals must meet or exceed the district-wide
6 goals established by the board.

7 (2) Each school district board of directors shall:

8 (a) Report biannually to parents in writing and to the community in
9 a public meeting the following information:

10 (i) District-wide and school-level three-year goals;

11 (ii) Student performance relative to the goals; and

12 (iii) District-wide and school-level plans to achieve the reading
13 goal in kindergarten through fourth grade, including grade-level
14 expectations, curriculum and instruction, parental or guardian
15 involvement, and resources available to parents and guardians to help
16 students meet the reading standard;

17 (b) Report annually to the superintendent of public instruction and
18 in a news release to the local media the district's progress toward
19 meeting the district-wide and school-level goals; and

20 (c) Include the reported information in each school's annual school
21 performance report under RCW 28A.320.205.

22 (3) By December 1, 2000, the superintendent of public instruction
23 shall report to the education committees of the house of
24 representatives and the senate on the progress that has been made in
25 achieving the three-year reading goal, and provide recommendations to
26 the legislature on setting reading goals for the next three years.

27 (4) This section expires July 1, 2006.

28 PART II

29 ADMINISTRATION OF READING ASSESSMENTS

30 **Sec. 201.** RCW 28A.300.320 and 1997 c 262 s 3 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall create a pilot
33 project to identify which second grade reading tests selected under RCW
34 28A.300.310 will be included in the final collection of tests that must
35 be available by June 30, 1998.

36 (2) Schools and school districts may voluntarily participate in the
37 second grade reading test pilot projects in the 1997-98 school year.

1 Schools and school districts voluntarily participating in the pilot
2 project test are not required to have the results available by the fall
3 parent-teacher conference.

4 (3)(a) Starting in the 1998-99 school year, school districts must
5 select a test from the collection adopted by the superintendent of
6 public instruction. Selection must be at the entire school district
7 level and must remain in place at that school district for at least
8 three years.

9 (b) The second grade reading test selected by the school district
10 must be administered annually in the fall beginning with the 1998-99
11 school year. Students who score substantially below grade level when
12 tested in the fall shall be tested at least one more time during the
13 second grade. Test performance deemed to be "substantially below grade
14 level" is to be determined for each test in the collection by the
15 superintendent of public instruction during the pilot year of 1997-98.

16 (c) If a student, while taking the test, reaches a point at which
17 the student's performance will be considered "substantially below grade
18 level" regardless of the student's performance on the remainder of the
19 test, the test may be discontinued.

20 (d) Each school must have the test results available by the fall
21 parent-teacher conference. Schools must notify parents about the
22 second grade reading test during the conferences, inform the parents of
23 their students' performance on the test, identify actions the school
24 intends to take to improve the child's reading skills, and provide
25 parents with strategies to help the parents improve their child's
26 score.

27 **Sec. 202.** RCW 28A.230.190 and 1997 c 262 s 5 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 ~~(1) ((Every school district is encouraged to test pupils in grade~~
30 ~~two by an assessment device designed or selected by the school~~
31 ~~district. This test shall be used to help teachers in identifying~~
32 ~~those pupils in need of assistance in the skills of reading, writing,~~
33 ~~mathematics, and language arts. The test results are not to be~~
34 ~~compiled by the superintendent of public instruction, but are only to~~
35 ~~be used by the local school district.))~~ School districts shall test
36 students for second grade reading accuracy and fluency skills starting
37 in the 1998-99 school year as provided in RCW 28A.300.320.

1 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare and
2 conduct, with the assistance of school districts, a norm-referenced
3 standardized achievement test to be given twice annually to all pupils
4 in grade ~~((four))~~ three, a preevaluation given in the fall and a
5 postevaluation given in the spring. The test shall assess students'
6 skill in reading~~((r))~~ and mathematics, ~~((and language arts))~~ and shall
7 focus upon appropriate input variables. Results of such tests shall be
8 compiled by the superintendent of public instruction, who shall make
9 those results available annually to the legislature, to all local
10 school districts and subsequently to parents of those children tested.
11 The results shall allow parents to ascertain, and compare over the
12 school year, the achievement levels and input variables of their
13 children as compared with the other students within the district, the
14 state and, if applicable, the nation.

15 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually
16 to the legislature on the achievement levels of students in grade
17 ~~((four))~~ three.

18 **PART III**

19 **REPORTING ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 301. A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 (1) By August 1, 1998, and by August 1st each year thereafter, the
23 superintendent of public instruction shall:

24 (a) Report to schools, school districts, and the legislature on the
25 results of the fourth grade Washington assessment of student learning;
26 and

27 (b) Post individual school results of the fourth grade Washington
28 assessment of student learning on the superintendent of public
29 instruction's internet world-wide web site. The reports shall include
30 the assessment results by school and school district, and include
31 changes over time.

32 (2) This section expires July 1, 2006.

33 **PART IV**

34 **MISCELLANEOUS**

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 401.** PART HEADINGS NOT LAW. Part headings
2 used in this act are not any part of the law.

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