
HOUSE BILL 2237

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives H. Sommers and Sehlin

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to school districts' essential academic learning
2 requirements assessment schedule; and amending RCW 28A.655.060.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.060 and 1999 c 373 s 501 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby
7 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify
8 the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be
9 able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to
10 develop student assessment and school accountability systems, to review
11 current school district data reporting requirements and make
12 recommendations on what data is necessary for the purposes of
13 accountability and meeting state information needs, and to take other
14 steps necessary to develop a performance-based education system. The
15 commission shall include three members of the state board of education,
16 three members appointed by the governor before July 1, 1992, and five
17 members appointed no later than June 1, 1993, by the governor elected
18 in the November 1992 election. The governor shall appoint a chair from
19 the commission members, and fill any vacancies in gubernatorial

1 appointments that may occur. The state board of education shall fill
2 any vacancies of state board of education appointments that may occur.
3 In making the appointments, educators, business leaders, and parents
4 shall be represented, and nominations from statewide education,
5 business, and parent organizations shall be requested. Efforts shall
6 be made to ensure that the commission reflects the racial and ethnic
7 diversity of the state's K-12 student population and that the major
8 geographic regions in the state are represented. Appointees shall be
9 qualified individuals who are supportive of educational restructuring,
10 who have a positive record of service, and who will devote sufficient
11 time to the responsibilities of the commission to ensure that the
12 objectives of the commission are achieved.

13 (2) The commission shall establish advisory committees. Membership
14 of the advisory committees shall include, but not necessarily be
15 limited to, professionals from the office of the superintendent of
16 public instruction and the state board of education, and other state
17 and local educational practitioners and student assessment specialists.

18 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,
19 shall:

20 (a) Develop essential academic learning requirements based on the
21 student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Essential academic learning
22 requirements shall be developed, to the extent possible, for each of
23 the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall
24 be considered primary. Essential academic learning requirements for
25 RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the mathematics component of RCW
26 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be completed no later than March 1,
27 1995. Essential academic learning requirements that incorporate the
28 remainder of RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two, three, and
29 four, shall be completed no later than March 1, 1996. To the maximum
30 extent possible, the commission shall integrate goal four and the
31 knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the development of the
32 essential academic learning requirements;

33 (b)(i) The commission and superintendent of public instruction
34 shall develop a statewide academic assessment system for use in the
35 elementary, middle, and high school years designed to determine if each
36 student has learned the essential academic learning requirements
37 identified in (a) of this subsection. The academic assessment system
38 shall include a variety of assessment methods, including criterion-
39 referenced and performance-based measures. Performance standards for

1 determining if a student has successfully completed an assessment shall
2 be determined by the commission and the superintendent of public
3 instruction in consultation with the advisory committees required in
4 subsection (2) of this section.

5 (ii) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results
6 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to evaluate
7 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational
8 support for students who have not learned the essential academic
9 learning requirements at the appropriate periods in the student's
10 educational development.

11 (iii) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
12 requirements shall be available for voluntary use by school districts
13 and shall be required to be administered by school districts according
14 to the following schedule unless the legislature takes action to delay
15 or prevent implementation of the assessment system and essential
16 academic learning requirements.

| | Assessments available for voluntary use (School years) | Assessments required to be administered (School years) |
|---|---|---|
| Reading, Writing, Communication, Mathematics | | |
| - Elementary school | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
| - Middle school | 1997-98 | 2000-01 |
| - High school | 1998-99 | 2000-01 |
| Science | | |
| - Middle and high school | ((1999-00)) <u>2001-02</u> | ((2000-01)) <u>2003-04</u> |
| - Elementary school | ((2001-02)) <u>2003-04</u> | ((2004-05)) <u>2005-06</u> |
| Social Studies | | |
| - ((Elementary, middle, and)) <u>High school</u> | 2002-03 | ((2005-06)) <u>2004-05</u> |
| - <u>Middle school</u> | <u>2003-04</u> | <u>2005-06</u> |
| - <u>Elementary school</u> | <u>2004-05</u> | <u>2006-07</u> |
| Arts | | |
| - ((Middle and)) <u>High</u> | 2003-04 | ((2006-07)) |

| | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | school | | <u>2005-06</u> |
| 2 | - <u>Middle school</u> | <u>2004-05</u> | <u>2006-07</u> |
| 3 | - Elementary school | ((2003-04)) | 2007-08 |
| 4 | | <u>2005-06</u> | |
| 5 | Health, Fitness | | |
| 6 | - ((Middle and)) <u>H</u> igh | 2003-04 | ((2006-07)) |
| 7 | school | | <u>2005-06</u> |
| 8 | - <u>Middle school</u> | <u>2004-05</u> | <u>2006-07</u> |
| 9 | - Elementary school | ((2003-04)) | 2007-08 |
| 10 | | <u>2005-06</u> | |

11 The completed assessments and assessments still in development
12 shall be transferred by the commission on student learning to the
13 superintendent of public instruction by June 30, 1999.

14 (iv) To the maximum extent possible, the commission and the
15 superintendent of public instruction shall integrate knowledge and
16 skill areas in development of the assessments.

17 Assessments for goals three and four of RCW 28A.150.210 shall be
18 integrated in the essential academic learning requirements and
19 assessments for goals one and two.

20 (v) The commission on student learning may modify the essential
21 academic learning requirements and the assessments, as needed, before
22 June 30, 1999. The superintendent of public instruction may modify the
23 essential academic learning requirements and the assessments, as
24 needed, after June 30, 1999. The commission and superintendent shall,
25 upon request, provide opportunities for the education committees of the
26 house of representatives and the senate to review the assessments and
27 proposed modifications to the essential academic learning requirements
28 before the modifications are adopted.

29 (vi) The commission and the superintendent of public instruction
30 shall develop assessments that are directly related to the essential
31 academic learning requirements, and are not biased toward persons with
32 different learning styles, racial or ethnic backgrounds, or on the
33 basis of gender;

34 (c) After a determination is made by the state board of education
35 that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it
36 is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high
37 school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The
38 certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most students at about the

1 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student has successfully
2 mastered the essential academic learning requirements during his or her
3 educational career. The certificate of mastery shall be required for
4 graduation but shall not be the only requirement for graduation. The
5 commission shall make recommendations to the state board of education
6 regarding the relationship between the certificate of mastery and high
7 school graduation requirements. Upon achieving the certificate of
8 mastery, schools shall provide students with the opportunity to pursue
9 career and educational objectives through educational pathways that
10 emphasize integration of academic and vocational education.
11 Educational pathways may include, but are not limited to, programs such
12 as work-based learning, school-to-work transition, tech prep,
13 vocational-technical education, running start, and preparation for
14 technical college, community college, or university education. Any
15 middle school, junior high school, or high school using educational
16 pathways shall ensure that all participating students will continue to
17 have access to the courses and instruction necessary to meet admission
18 requirements at baccalaureate institutions. Students shall be allowed
19 to enter the educational pathway of their choice. Before accepting a
20 student into an educational pathway, the school shall inform the
21 student's parent of the pathway chosen, the opportunities available to
22 the student through the pathway, and the career objectives the student
23 will have exposure to while pursuing the pathway. Parents and students
24 dissatisfied with the opportunities available through the selected
25 educational pathway shall be provided with the opportunity to transfer
26 the student to any other pathway provided in the school. Schools may
27 not develop educational pathways that retain students in high school
28 beyond the date they are eligible to graduate, and may not require
29 students who transfer between pathways to complete pathway requirements
30 beyond the date the student is eligible to graduate;

31 (d) Consider methods to address the unique needs of special
32 education students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of
33 this subsection;

34 (e) Consider methods to address the unique needs of highly capable
35 students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of this
36 subsection;

37 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,
38 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts
39 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.

1 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,
2 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost
3 of implementing the academic assessment system;

4 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher
5 education coordinating board for adopting college and university
6 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent
7 with the essential academic learning requirements and the certificate
8 of mastery;

9 (h) Review current school district data reporting requirements for
10 the purposes of accountability and meeting state information needs.
11 The commission on student learning shall report recommendations to the
12 joint select committee on education restructuring by September 15,
13 1996, on:

14 (i) What data is necessary to compare how school districts are
15 performing before the essential academic learning requirements and the
16 assessment system are implemented with how school districts are
17 performing after the essential academic learning requirements and the
18 assessment system are implemented; and

19 (ii) What data is necessary pertaining to school district reports
20 under the accountability systems developed by the commission on student
21 learning under this section;

22 (i) Recommend to the legislature, governor, state board of
23 education, and superintendent of public instruction:

24 (i) A statewide accountability system to monitor and evaluate
25 accurately and fairly at elementary, middle, and high schools the level
26 of learning occurring in individual schools and school districts with
27 regard to the goals included in RCW 28A.150.210 (1) through (4). The
28 accountability system must assess each school individually against its
29 own baseline, schools with similar characteristics, and schools
30 statewide. The system shall include school-site, school district, and
31 state-level accountability reports;

32 (ii) A school assistance program to help schools and school
33 districts that are having difficulty helping students meet the
34 essential academic learning requirements as measured by performance on
35 the elementary, middle school, and high school assessments;

36 (iii) A system to intervene in schools and school districts in
37 which significant numbers of students persistently fail to learn the
38 essential academic learning requirements or meet the standards

1 established for the elementary, middle school, and high school
2 assessments; and

3 (iv) An awards program to provide incentives to school staff to
4 help their students learn the essential academic learning requirements,
5 with each school being assessed individually against its own baseline,
6 schools with similar characteristics, and the statewide average.
7 Incentives shall be based on the rate of percentage change of students
8 achieving the essential academic learning requirements and progress on
9 meeting the statewide average. School staff shall determine how the
10 awards will be spent.

11 The commission shall make recommendations regarding a statewide
12 accountability system for reading in grades kindergarten through four
13 by November 1, 1997. Recommendations for an accountability system in
14 the other subject areas and grade levels shall be made no later than
15 June 30, 1999;

16 (j) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the
17 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board
18 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the
19 commission; and

20 (k) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions
21 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning
22 goals.

23 (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the state
24 board of education and the office of the superintendent of public
25 instruction.

26 (5) The commission shall seek advice broadly from the public and
27 all interested educational organizations in the conduct of its work,
28 including holding periodic regional public hearings.

29 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support
30 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
31 provide administrative oversight and be the fiscal agent for the
32 commission. The commission may direct the office of the superintendent
33 of public instruction to enter into subcontracts, within the
34 commission's resources, with school districts, teachers, higher
35 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other
36 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its
37 deliberations.

38 (7) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for travel
39 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

1 (8)(a) By September 30, 1997, the commission on student learning,
2 the state board of education, and the superintendent of public
3 instruction shall jointly present recommendations to the education
4 committees of the house of representatives and the senate regarding the
5 high school assessments, the certificate of mastery, and high school
6 graduation requirements.

7 In preparing recommendations, the commission on student learning
8 shall convene an ad hoc working group to address questions, including:

9 (i) What type of document shall be used to identify student
10 performance and achievement and how will the document be described?

11 (ii) Should the students be required to pass the high school
12 assessments in all skill and content areas, or only in select skill and
13 content areas, to graduate?

14 (iii) How will the criteria for establishing the standards for
15 passing scores on the assessments be determined?

16 (iv) What timeline should be used in phasing-in the assessments as
17 a graduation requirement?

18 (v) What options may be used in demonstrating how the results of
19 the assessments will be displayed in a way that is meaningful to
20 students, parents, institutions of higher education, and potential
21 employers?

22 (vi) Are there other or additional methods by which the
23 assessments could be used to identify achievement such as endorsements,
24 standards of proficiency, merit badges, or levels of achievement?

25 (vii) Should the assessments and certificate of mastery be used to
26 satisfy college or university entrance criteria for public school
27 students? If yes, how should these methods be phased-in?

28 (b) The ad hoc working group shall report its recommendations to
29 the commission on student learning, the state board of education, and
30 the superintendent of public instruction by June 15, 1997. The
31 commission shall report the ad hoc working group's recommendations to
32 the education committees of the house of representatives and senate by
33 July 15, 1997. Final recommendations of the commission on student
34 learning, the state board of education, and the superintendent of
35 public instruction shall be presented to the education committees of
36 the house of representatives and the senate by September 30, 1997.

1 (9) The Washington commission on student learning shall expire on
2 June 30, 1999.

--- END ---