
SENATE BILL 6456

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Finkbeiner, Kohl-Welles, Winsley and Keiser; by request of Governor Locke, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State School Directors Association, A+ Commission and State Board of Education

Read first time 01/17/2002. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the academic achievement and
2 accountability commission to set performance improvement goals for
3 certain disaggregated groups of students and dropout goals; and
4 amending RCW 28A.655.030.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.030 and 1999 c 388 s 102 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 The powers and duties of the academic achievement and
9 accountability commission shall include, but are not limited to the
10 following:

11 (1) For purposes of statewide accountability, the commission shall:

12 (a) Adopt and revise performance improvement goals in reading,
13 writing, science, and mathematics by subject and grade level as the
14 commission deems appropriate to improve student learning, once
15 assessments in these subjects are required statewide. The goals shall
16 be consistent with student privacy protection provisions of RCW
17 28A.655.090(7) and shall not conflict with requirements contained in
18 Title I of the federal elementary and secondary education act of 1965,
19 as amended. The goals may be established for all students and for

1 economically disadvantaged students and for students from racial and
2 ethnic backgrounds that are disproportionately underachieving
3 academically. The commission may establish dropout rate reduction
4 goals for schools and school districts with students in grades seven
5 through twelve. The goals shall be in addition to any goals adopted in
6 RCW 28A.655.050. The commission may also revise any goal adopted in
7 RCW 28A.655.050. The commission shall adopt the goals by rule.
8 However, before each goal is implemented, the commission shall present
9 the goal to the education committees of the house of representatives
10 and the senate for the committees' review and comment in a time frame
11 that will permit the legislature to take statutory action on the goal
12 if such action is deemed warranted by the legislature;

13 (b) Identify the scores students must achieve in order to meet the
14 standard on the Washington assessment of student learning and determine
15 student scores that identify levels of student performance below and
16 beyond the standard. The commission shall set such performance
17 standards and levels in consultation with the superintendent of public
18 instruction and after consideration of any recommendations that may be
19 developed by any advisory committees that may be established for this
20 purpose;

21 (c) Adopt objective, systematic criteria to identify successful
22 schools and school districts and recommend to the superintendent of
23 public instruction schools and districts to be recognized for two types
24 of accomplishments, student achievement and improvements in student
25 achievement. Recognition for improvements in student achievement shall
26 include consideration of one or more of the following accomplishments:

27 (i) An increase in the percent of students meeting standards. The
28 level of achievement required for recognition may be based on the
29 achievement goals established by the legislature under RCW 28A.655.050
30 and the commission under (a) of this subsection;

31 (ii) Positive progress on an improvement index that measures
32 improvement in all levels of the assessment; and

33 (iii) Improvements despite challenges such as high levels of
34 mobility, poverty, English as a second language learners, and large
35 numbers of students in special populations as measured by either the
36 percent of students meeting the standard, or the improvement index.

37 When determining the baseline year or years for recognizing
38 individual schools, the commission may use the assessment results from

1 the initial years the assessments were administered, if doing so with
2 individual schools would be appropriate;

3 (d) Adopt objective, systematic criteria to identify schools and
4 school districts in need of assistance and those in which significant
5 numbers of students persistently fail to meet state standards. In its
6 deliberations, the commission shall consider the use of all statewide
7 mandated criterion-referenced and norm-referenced standardized tests;

8 (e) Identify schools and school districts in which state
9 intervention measures will be needed and a range of appropriate
10 intervention strategies, beginning no earlier than June 30, 2001, and
11 after the legislature has authorized a set of intervention strategies.
12 Beginning no earlier than June 30, 2001, and after the legislature has
13 authorized a set of intervention strategies, at the request of the
14 commission, the superintendent shall intervene in the school or school
15 district and take corrective actions. This chapter does not provide
16 additional authority for the commission or the superintendent of public
17 instruction to intervene in a school or school district;

18 (f) Identify performance incentive systems that have improved or
19 have the potential to improve student achievement;

20 (g) Annually review the assessment reporting system to ensure
21 fairness, accuracy, timeliness, and equity of opportunity, especially
22 with regard to schools with special circumstances and unique
23 populations of students, and a recommendation to the superintendent of
24 public instruction of any improvements needed to the system;

25 (h) Annually report by December 1st to the legislature, the
26 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board
27 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the
28 commission. The report may include recommendations of actions to help
29 improve student achievement;

30 (i) By December 1, 2000, and by December 1st annually thereafter,
31 report to the education committees of the house of representatives and
32 the senate on the progress that has been made in achieving the reading
33 goal under RCW 28A.655.050 and any additional goals adopted by the
34 commission;

35 (j) Coordinate its activities with the state board of education and
36 the office of the superintendent of public instruction;

37 (k) Seek advice from the public and all interested educational
38 organizations in the conduct of its work; and

1 (1) Establish advisory committees, which may include persons who
2 are not members of the commission;

3 (2) Holding meetings and public hearings, which may include
4 regional meetings and hearings;

5 (3) Hiring necessary staff and determining the staff's duties and
6 compensation. However, the office of the superintendent of public
7 instruction shall provide staff support to the commission until the
8 commission has hired its own staff, and shall provide most of the
9 technical assistance and logistical support needed by the commission
10 thereafter. The office of the superintendent of public instruction
11 shall be the fiscal agent for the commission. The commission may
12 direct the office of the superintendent of public instruction to enter
13 into subcontracts, within the commission's resources, with school
14 districts, teachers, higher education faculty, state agencies, business
15 organizations, and other individuals and organizations to assist the
16 commission in its deliberations; and

17 (4) Receiving per diem and travel allowances as permitted under RCW
18 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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