

ESSB 6475 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Education

NOT ADOPTED 03/03/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The legislature has made a commitment to rigorous academic
6 standards for receipt of a high school diploma. The primary way that
7 students will demonstrate that they meet the standards in reading,
8 writing, mathematics, and science is through the Washington assessment
9 of student learning. Only objective assessments that are comparable in
10 rigor to the state assessment are authorized as an alternative
11 assessment. Before seeking an alternative assessment, the legislature
12 expects students to make a genuine effort to meet state standards,
13 through retaking the Washington assessment of student learning; regular
14 and consistent attendance at school; and participation in extended
15 learning and other assistance programs.

16 (2) Under RCW 28A.655.061, beginning in the 2006-07 school year,
17 the superintendent of public instruction shall implement three
18 objective alternative assessment methods as provided in this section
19 for students to demonstrate achievement of the state standards in
20 content areas in which the student has not yet met the standard on the
21 high school Washington assessment of student learning. A student may
22 access an alternative if the student meets applicable eligibility
23 criteria in RCW 28A.655.061 and other eligibility criteria established
24 by the superintendent of public instruction, including but not limited
25 to a ninety-five percent minimum attendance criterion and required
26 participation in the remediation or supplemental instruction contained
27 in the student learning plan developed under RCW 28A.655.061. A school
28 district may waive the attendance and remediation requirement for
29 special, unavoidable circumstances.

1 (3) For the purposes of this section, "applicant" means a student
2 seeking to use one of the alternative assessment methods in this
3 section.

4 (4) The primary alternative assessment method shall be a
5 combination of the applicant's grades in applicable courses and the
6 applicant's highest score on the high school Washington assessment of
7 student learning, as provided in this subsection.

8 (a) Using guidelines prepared by the superintendent of public
9 instruction, a school district shall identify the group of students in
10 the same school as the applicant who took the same high school courses
11 as the applicant in the applicable content area. From the group of
12 students identified in this manner, the district shall select the
13 comparison cohort that shall be those students who met or slightly
14 exceeded the state standard on the Washington assessment of student
15 learning.

16 (b) The district shall compare the applicant's grades in high
17 school courses in the applicable content area to the grades of students
18 in the comparison cohort for the same high school courses. If the
19 applicant's grades are above the median grades of the comparison
20 cohort, the applicant shall be deemed to have met the state standard on
21 the alternative assessment.

22 (c) An applicant may not use the alternative assessment under this
23 subsection (4) if there are fewer than six students in the comparison
24 cohort.

25 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall also develop an
26 alternative assessment method that shall be an evaluation of a
27 collection of work samples prepared and submitted by the applicant, as
28 provided in this subsection and, for career and technical applicants,
29 the additional requirements of subsection (6) of this section. The
30 collection of work samples may be implemented as an alternative
31 assessment if there are fewer than six students in the applicant's
32 comparison cohort under subsection (4) of this section or if the
33 applicant is enrolled in a career and technical program approved under
34 section 2 of this act. The collection of work samples may be
35 implemented as an alternative assessment for other applicants only if
36 formally approved by the legislature through the omnibus appropriations
37 act, statute, or concurrent resolution.

1 (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop
2 guidelines for the types and number of work samples in each content
3 area that may be submitted as a collection of evidence that the
4 applicant has met the state standard in that content area. Work
5 samples may be collected from academic, career and technical, or
6 remedial courses and may include performance tasks as well as written
7 products.

8 (b) The superintendent shall develop protocols for submission of
9 the collection of work samples that include affidavits from the
10 applicant's teachers and school district that the samples are the work
11 of the applicant and a requirement that a portion of the samples be
12 prepared under the direct supervision of a classroom teacher.

13 (c) The superintendent shall develop uniform scoring criteria for
14 evaluating the collection of work samples. Collections shall be scored
15 at the state level or regionally by a panel of educators selected and
16 trained by the superintendent to ensure objectivity, reliability, and
17 rigor in the evaluation. An educator may not score work samples
18 submitted by applicants from the educator's school district. If the
19 panel awards an applicant's collection of work samples the minimum
20 required score, the applicant shall be deemed to have met the state
21 standard on the alternative assessment.

22 (6)(a) For students enrolled in a career and technical education
23 program approved under section 2 of this act, the superintendent of
24 public instruction shall develop guidelines for a collection of work
25 samples that evidences that the collection:

26 (i) Is relevant to the student's particular career and technical
27 program;

28 (ii) Focuses on the application of academic knowledge and skills
29 within the program;

30 (iii) Includes completed activities or projects where demonstration
31 of academic knowledge is inferred; and

32 (iv) Is related to the essential academic learning requirements and
33 state standards that students must meet to earn a certificate of
34 academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement, but also
35 represents the knowledge and skills that successful individuals in the
36 career and technical field of the approved program are expected to
37 possess.

1 (b) To meet the state standard on the alternative assessment under
2 this subsection (6), an applicant must also attain the state or
3 nationally recognized certificate or credential associated with the
4 approved career and technical program.

5 (c) The superintendent shall consult with community and technical
6 colleges, employers, the work force training and education coordinating
7 board, apprenticeship programs, and other regional and national experts
8 in career and technical education to create an appropriate collection
9 of work samples and other evidence of a career and technical student's
10 knowledge and skills on the state academic standards.

11 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall study the
12 feasibility of using existing mathematics assessments in languages
13 other than English as an additional alternative assessment option. The
14 study shall include an estimation of the cost of translating the tenth
15 grade mathematics assessment into other languages and scoring the
16 assessments should they be implemented.

17 (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall implement:

18 (a) By June 1, 2006, a process for students to appeal the score
19 they received on the high school assessments; and

20 (b) By January 1, 2007, guidelines and appeal processes for waiving
21 specific requirements in RCW 28A.655.061 pertaining to the certificate
22 of academic achievement and to the certificate of individual
23 achievement for students who: (i) Transfer to a Washington public
24 school in their junior or senior year with the intent of obtaining a
25 public high school diploma, or (ii) have special, unavoidable
26 circumstances.

27 (9) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to
28 implement this section.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.04 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 The superintendent of public instruction shall develop a list of
32 approved career and technical education programs that qualify for the
33 objective alternative assessment for career and technical students
34 developed under section 1 of this act. Programs on the list must meet
35 the following minimum criteria:

36 (1) Lead to a certificate or credential that is state or nationally

1 recognized by trades, industries, or other professional associations as
2 necessary for employment or advancement in that field;

3 (2) Require a sequenced progression of multiple courses, both
4 exploratory and preparatory, that are vocationally intensive and
5 rigorous; and

6 (3) Have a high potential for providing the program completer with
7 gainful employment or entry into a postsecondary work force training
8 program.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** By September 2006, the superintendent of
10 public instruction shall report the following, in detail, to the
11 education committees of the legislature:

12 (1) Results of the pilot testing of the alternative assessments
13 authorized under section 1 of this act;

14 (2) The proposed guidelines, protocols, and procedures to be used
15 by the superintendent in implementing the alternative assessments,
16 particularly the collection of evidence;

17 (3) A description of the training to be provided for school
18 districts, educators serving on scoring panels, and teachers assisting
19 students with collections of evidence;

20 (4) Preliminary results of the feasibility study in section 1(7) of
21 this act; and

22 (5) Updated estimates of the number of students likely to be
23 eligible or apply for either alternative assessment method.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2004 c 19 s 101 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
27 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities
28 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which
29 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature
30 pursuant to subsection (~~((11))~~) (10) of this section, one or more
31 objective alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate
32 achievement of state academic standards. The objective alternative
33 assessments for each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the
34 skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the
35 Washington assessment of student learning for each content area.

1 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
2 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
3 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
4 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
5 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
6 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation
7 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for
8 graduation.

9 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
10 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who
11 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics
12 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student
13 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a
14 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more
15 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,
16 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to
17 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully
18 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the
19 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once
20 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection
21 ~~((11))~~ (10) of this section, a student may use the objective
22 alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully
23 meets the state standards for that content area if the student has
24 retaken the Washington assessment of student learning at least once.
25 If the student successfully meets the state standards on the objective
26 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of
27 academic achievement. ~~((The student's transcript shall note whether
28 the certificate of academic achievement was acquired by means of the
29 Washington assessment of student learning or by an alternative
30 assessment.))~~

31 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, a student must
32 meet the state standards in science in addition to the other content
33 areas required under subsection (3) of this section on the Washington
34 assessment of student learning or the objective alternative assessments
35 in order to earn a certificate of academic achievement.

36 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of
37 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based

1 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private
2 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the
3 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045.

4 (6) A student may retain and use the highest result from each
5 successfully completed content area of the high school assessment.

6 ~~(7) ((Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, the highest
7 scale score and level achieved in each content area on the high school
8 Washington assessment of student learning shall be displayed on a
9 student's transcript. In addition, beginning with the graduating class
10 of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's designation on his or
11 her transcript for each content area in which the student achieves
12 level four the first time the student takes that content area
13 assessment.~~

14 ~~(8))~~ Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available to
15 students the following options:

16 (a) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
17 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
18 state standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

19 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
20 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
21 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion
22 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of
23 public instruction and the state board for community and technical
24 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these
25 programs can be assessed.

26 ~~((9))~~ (8) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of
27 the high school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall
28 pay for retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the
29 superintendent of public instruction.

30 ~~((10))~~ (9) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall
31 pilot opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning
32 in the 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,
33 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be
34 available to each school district.

35 ~~((11))~~ (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public
36 instruction shall develop options for implementing objective
37 alternative assessments, which may include an appeals process, for
38 students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic standards.

1 The objective alternative assessments shall be comparable in rigor to
2 the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the
3 Washington assessment of student learning and be objective in its
4 determination of student achievement of the state standards. Before
5 any objective alternative assessments in addition to those authorized
6 in (b) of this subsection are used by a student to demonstrate that the
7 student has met the state standards in a content area required to
8 obtain a certificate, the legislature shall formally approve the use of
9 any objective alternative assessments through the omnibus
10 appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

11 ~~((+12+))~~ (b) After formal approval by the legislature of the score
12 required for this purpose, a student's score on the mathematics portion
13 of the preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT), the scholastic
14 assessment test (SAT), or the American college test (ACT) may be used
15 as an objective alternative assessment under this section for
16 demonstrating that a student has met the mathematics standards for the
17 certificate of academic achievement. The state board of education
18 shall identify the scores students must achieve on the mathematics
19 portion of the PSAT, SAT, or ACT to meet the state standard for
20 mathematics and shall submit the proposed scores, along with any
21 subsequent revisions, to the legislature for formal approval through
22 the appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution. The
23 state board of education shall submit the first proposed scores to the
24 legislature by December 1, 2006.

25 (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate
26 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from
27 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the
28 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of
29 student learning for making individual student high school graduation
30 determinations.

31 ~~((+13+))~~ (12) To help assure continued progress in academic
32 achievement as a foundation for high school graduation and to assure
33 that students are on track for high school graduation, each school
34 district shall prepare plans for students as provided in this
35 subsection ~~((+13+))~~ (12).

36 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth
37 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content
38 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the

1 previous school year. The plan shall include the courses,
2 competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet
3 state academic standards and stay on track for graduation. This
4 requirement shall be phased in as follows:

5 (i) Beginning no later than the 2004-05 school year ninth grade
6 students as described in this subsection (~~((+13+))~~) (12)(a) shall have a
7 plan.

8 (ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every year
9 thereafter eighth grade students as described in this subsection
10 (~~((+13+))~~) (12)(a) shall have a plan.

11 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through
12 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
13 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
14 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
15 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's
16 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

17 (iv) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
18 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the
19 plan made as necessary.

20 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year
21 thereafter, all fifth grade students who were not successful in one or
22 more of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of
23 student learning shall have a student learning plan.

24 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this
25 subsection (~~((+13+))~~) (12)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a
26 parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
27 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
28 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
29 was unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their
30 student's skills.

31 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
32 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the
33 plan made as necessary.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose,
37 school districts shall reimburse students for the cost of taking the

1 tests in RCW 28A.655.061(10)(b) when the students take the tests for
2 the purpose of using the mathematics results as an objective
3 alternative assessment.

4 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.305.220 and 2004 c 19 s 108 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The state board of education shall develop for use by all
7 public school districts a standardized high school transcript. The
8 state board of education shall establish clear definitions for the
9 terms "credits" and "hours" so that school programs operating on the
10 quarter, semester, or trimester system can be compared.

11 (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include (~~the~~
12 ~~following information:~~

13 ~~(a) The highest scale score and level achieved in each content area~~
14 ~~on the high school Washington assessment of student learning or other~~
15 ~~high school measures successfully completed by the student as provided~~
16 ~~by RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.155.045;~~

17 ~~(b) All scholar designations as provided by RCW 28A.655.061;~~

18 ~~(c))~~ a notation of whether the student has earned a certificate of
19 individual achievement or a certificate of academic achievement (~~by~~
20 ~~means of the Washington assessment of student learning or by an~~
21 ~~alternative assessment)).~~

22 (3) Transcripts are important documents to students who will apply
23 for admission to postsecondary institutions of higher education.
24 Transcripts are also important to students who will seek employment
25 upon or prior to graduation from high school. It is recognized that
26 student transcripts may be the only record available to employers in
27 their decision-making processes regarding prospective employees. The
28 superintendent of public instruction shall require school districts to
29 inform annually all high school students that prospective employers may
30 request to see transcripts and that the prospective employee's decision
31 to release transcripts can be an important part of the process of
32 applying for employment.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
34 act and section 5 of this act, referencing this act and section 5 of
35 this act by bill or chapter number and section number, is not provided

1 by June 30, 2006, in the omnibus appropriations act, section 5 of this
2 act is null and void."

3 Correct the title.

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