
HOUSE BILL 2429

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Halper, Hasegawa, Talcott, Santos and McCune

Prefiled 1/4/2006. Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to
Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring an independent review of the
2 Washington assessment of student learning; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature continues to support high
5 academic standards for Washington public school students and recognizes
6 that the Washington assessment of student learning is an assessment
7 tool and not the standard. The legislature finds that Washington's
8 academic assessment system, including the essential academic learning
9 requirements, grade level expectations, and Washington assessment of
10 student learning, has been continuously under development since the
11 enactment of the state's education reform law in 1993. Since the
12 passage of the federal no child left behind act in 2001, there has been
13 rapid implementation of additional components to the state assessment
14 system. As a result, a comprehensive analysis of Washington's
15 assessment system following the implementation of the no child left
16 behind act of 2001 has not been conducted. There has also not been
17 adequate attention paid to how the system affects the authority and
18 control of locally elected school directors. Therefore, the

1 legislature intends to commission a comprehensive review of
2 Washington's academic assessment system and ensure additional local
3 flexibility within that system.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint legislative audit and review
5 committee shall design and conduct a request for proposal for a
6 comprehensive and independent review of the Washington assessment of
7 student learning. The review shall cover the content areas of reading,
8 mathematics, writing, and science, at all grade levels.

9 (2) The review shall address the following topics:

10 (a) A description of the full cost to the state and local school
11 districts of developing, maintaining, scoring, test storage, appeal
12 processing, parent review, and other tasks associated with
13 administering the Washington assessment of student learning;

14 (b) A comparison of the costs of the Washington assessment of
15 student learning and the costs of assessment systems in other states;

16 (c) An analysis of the ability of the Washington assessment of
17 student learning to provide teachers and parents with real-time
18 diagnostic information about individual students' academic performance
19 so that instructional support and intervention strategies can
20 immediately focus on specific knowledge and skills needing improvement;

21 (d) An analysis of whether and to what extent test questions on the
22 Washington assessment of student learning disproportionately favor or
23 disadvantage any specific group of students, including students with
24 different learning styles, racial or ethnic backgrounds, or gender; and

25 (e) An evaluation of alternative assessment tools to the Washington
26 assessment of student learning, a comparison of their costs, and the
27 extent to which the alternatives meet, or could be made to meet, the
28 following criteria:

29 (i) Measure student performance and achievement of the Washington
30 essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations;

31 (ii) Provide teachers and parents with real-time diagnostic
32 information about individual students' academic performance so that
33 instructional support and intervention strategies can immediately focus
34 on specific knowledge and skills needing improvement; and

35 (iii) Meet federal requirements for assessments used to determine
36 adequate yearly progress under P.L. 107-110, the no child left behind
37 act of 2001.

1 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide all
2 available data necessary for the joint legislative audit and review
3 committee and its contractor to conduct the review under this section.
4 The contractor shall submit study protocols for approval by the
5 committee to ensure adequate confidentiality and security of student
6 scores and other data and information pertaining to the Washington
7 assessment of student learning.

8 (4) The joint legislative audit and review committee and its
9 contractor shall submit a report containing the results of the review
10 of the alternative assessment tools to the Washington assessment of
11 student learning by September 30, 2006, and a final report covering the
12 other subjects reviewed under this section to the education committees
13 of the legislature by December 1, 2007.

--- END ---