
HOUSE BILL 2733

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives P. Sullivan, Simpson, Haler, McCoy, Schual-Berke, Curtis, Green and Morrell

Read first time 01/12/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to information on high school transcripts; and
2 amending RCW 28A.305.220 and 28A.655.061.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** 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
14 area on the high school Washington assessment of student learning or
15 other high school measures successfully completed by the student as
16 provided by RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.155.045;~~

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

18 ~~((c))~~ (b) A notation of whether the student has earned a

1 certificate of individual achievement or a certificate of academic
2 achievement by means of the Washington assessment of student learning
3 or by an alternative assessment.

4 (3) Transcripts are important documents to students who will apply
5 for admission to postsecondary institutions of higher education.
6 Transcripts are also important to students who will seek employment
7 upon or prior to graduation from high school. It is recognized that
8 student transcripts may be the only record available to employers in
9 their decision-making processes regarding prospective employees. The
10 superintendent of public instruction shall require school districts to
11 inform annually all high school students that prospective employers may
12 request to see transcripts and that the prospective employee's decision
13 to release transcripts can be an important part of the process of
14 applying for employment.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2004 c 19 s 101 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
18 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities
19 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which
20 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature
21 pursuant to subsection (11) of this section, one or more objective
22 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of
23 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for
24 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
25 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
26 assessment of student learning for each content area.

27 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
28 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
29 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
30 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
31 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
32 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation
33 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for
34 graduation.

35 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
36 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who
37 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics

1 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student
2 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a
3 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more
4 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,
5 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to
6 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully
7 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the
8 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once
9 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection
10 (11) of this section, a student may use the objective alternative
11 assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully meets the
12 state standards for that content area if the student has retaken the
13 Washington assessment of student learning at least once. If the
14 student successfully meets the state standards on the objective
15 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of
16 academic achievement. The student's transcript shall note whether the
17 certificate of academic achievement was acquired by means of the
18 Washington assessment of student learning or by an alternative
19 assessment.

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

25 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of
26 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based
27 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private
28 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the
29 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045.

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

32 ~~((Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, the highest~~
33 ~~scale score and level achieved in each content area on the high school~~
34 ~~Washington assessment of student learning shall be displayed on a~~
35 ~~student's transcript. In addition,))~~ Beginning with the graduating
36 class of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's designation on
37 his or her transcript for each content area in which the student

1 achieves level four the first time the student takes that content area
2 assessment.

3 (8) Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available to
4 students the following options:

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

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

15 (9) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the high
16 school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall pay for
17 retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the
18 superintendent of public instruction.

19 (10) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall pilot
20 opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning in the
21 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,
22 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be
23 available to each school district.

24 (11) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
25 develop options for implementing objective alternative assessments,
26 which may include an appeals process, for students to demonstrate
27 achievement of the state academic standards. The objective alternative
28 assessments shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and knowledge
29 that the student must demonstrate on the Washington assessment of
30 student learning and be objective in its determination of student
31 achievement of the state standards. Before any objective alternative
32 assessments are used by a student to demonstrate that the student has
33 met the state standards in a content area required to obtain a
34 certificate, the legislature shall formally approve the use of any
35 objective alternative assessments through the omnibus appropriations
36 act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

37 (12) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate
38 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from

1 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the
2 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of
3 student learning for making individual student high school graduation
4 determinations.

5 (13) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
6 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are
7 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare
8 plans for students as provided in this subsection (13).

9 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth
10 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content
11 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the
12 previous school year. The plan shall include the courses,
13 competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet
14 state academic standards and stay on track for graduation. This
15 requirement shall be phased in as follows:

16 (i) Beginning no later than the 2004-05 school year ninth grade
17 students as described in this subsection (13)(a) shall have a plan.

18 (ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every year
19 thereafter eighth grade students as described in this subsection
20 (13)(a) shall have a plan.

21 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through
22 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
23 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
24 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
25 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's
26 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

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

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

34 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this
35 subsection (13)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a parent
36 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of
37 student learning, actions the school intends to take to improve the

1 student's skills in any content area in which the student was
2 unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their
3 student's skills.

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

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