
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2785

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Quall, Tom, P. Sullivan, Hunter, Morrell, Nixon, Rodne, Roberts, Schual-Berke, Simpson, Springer, Sells, Lantz, Linville, Dunshee and Kagi; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing alternative methods of assessment
2 and appeal processes for the certificate of academic achievement;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.655 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 28C.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

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

19 (2) Under RCW 28A.655.061, beginning in the 2006-07 school year,

1 the superintendent of public instruction shall implement three
2 objective alternative assessment methods as provided in this section
3 for students to demonstrate achievement of the state standards in
4 content areas in which the student has not yet met the standard on the
5 high school Washington assessment of student learning. A student may
6 access an alternative if the student meets applicable eligibility
7 criteria in RCW 28A.655.061 and other eligibility criteria established
8 by the superintendent of public instruction, including but not limited
9 to a ninety-five percent minimum attendance criterion and required
10 participation in remediation programs or instruction.

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

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

18 (a) Using guidelines prepared by the superintendent of public
19 instruction, a school district shall identify the group of students in
20 the same school as the applicant who took the same high school courses
21 as the applicant in the applicable content area. From the group of
22 students identified in this manner, the district shall select the
23 comparison cohort that shall be those students who met or slightly
24 exceeded the state standard on the Washington assessment of student
25 learning.

26 (b) The district shall compare the applicant's grades in high
27 school courses in the applicable content area to the grades of students
28 in the comparison cohort for the same high school courses. If the
29 applicant's grades are above the median grades of the comparison
30 cohort, the applicant shall be deemed to have met the state standard on
31 the alternative assessment.

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

35 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall also develop an
36 alternative assessment method that shall be an evaluation of a
37 collection of work samples prepared and submitted by the applicant, as
38 provided in this subsection and, for career and technical applicants,

1 subsection (6) of this section. The collection of work samples may be
2 implemented as an alternative assessment if there are fewer than six
3 students in the applicant's comparison cohort under subsection (4) of
4 this section or if the applicant is enrolled in a career and technical
5 program approved under section 2 of this act. The collection of work
6 samples may be implemented as an alternative assessment for other
7 applicants only if formally approved by the legislature through the
8 omnibus appropriations act, statute, or concurrent resolution.

9 (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop
10 guidelines for the types and number of work samples in each content
11 area that may be submitted as a collection of evidence that the
12 applicant has met the state standard in that content area. Work
13 samples may be collected from academic, career and technical, or
14 remedial courses and may include performance tasks as well as written
15 products.

16 (b) The superintendent shall develop protocols for submission of
17 the collection of work samples that include affidavits from the
18 applicant's teachers and school district that the samples are the work
19 of the applicant and a requirement that a portion of the samples be
20 prepared under the direct supervision of a classroom teacher.

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

30 (6)(a) For students enrolled in a career and technical education
31 program approved under section 2 of this act, the superintendent of
32 public instruction shall develop a collection of work samples that:

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

35 (ii) Focuses on the application of academic knowledge and skills
36 within the program;

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

1 (iv) Is related to the essential academic learning requirements and
2 state standards that students must meet to earn a certificate of
3 academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement, but also
4 represents the knowledge and skills that successful individuals in the
5 career and technical field of the approved program are expected to
6 possess.

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

11 (c) The superintendent shall consult with community and technical
12 colleges, employers, the work force training and education coordinating
13 board, apprenticeship programs, and other regional and national experts
14 in career and technical education to create the most appropriate
15 collection of work samples and other evidence of a career and technical
16 student's knowledge and skills on the state academic standards.

17 (7) 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 assessment; 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 (8) 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; and

20 (4) Updated estimates of the number of students likely to be
21 eligible or apply for either alternative assessment method.

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