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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2903**

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**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Talcott, Quall, Cox, Curtis, Roach, Orcutt, Holmquist, Woods, Shabro, Ericksen, Anderson, Serben, Nixon, Haler, McCune, Haigh, Sump, Priest, Armstrong, Santos, Hinkle, Strow, Newhouse and Rodne)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1            AN ACT Relating to making reforms necessary to improve student  
2 academic achievement; and amending RCW 28A.655.200.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.200 and 2005 c 217 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) ~~((The legislature finds that the mandatory norm referenced~~  
7 ~~student assessments eliminated under chapter 217, Laws of 2005 provide~~  
8 ~~information that teachers and parents use to improve student~~  
9 ~~learning.))~~ In the absence of mandatory, statewide, norm-referenced  
10 assessments, the legislature intends to permit school districts to  
11 offer norm-referenced assessments ((at the districts' own expense  
12 and)), make diagnostic tools available ((that provide information that  
13 is at least as valuable as the information eliminated under chapter  
14 217, Laws of 2005)), and provide funding for diagnostic assessments for  
15 early intervention before the high school Washington assessment of  
16 student learning.

17            (2) In addition to the diagnostic assessments provided under  
18 subsection (5) of this section, school districts may, at their own  
19 expense, administer norm-referenced assessments to students.

1 (3) By September 1, 2005, subject to available funds, the office of  
2 the superintendent of public instruction shall post on its web site for  
3 voluntary use by school districts, a guide of diagnostic assessments.  
4 The assessments in the guide, to the extent possible, shall include the  
5 characteristics listed in subsection (4)((~~a~~ through (~~e~~)) of this  
6 section.

7 (~~4~~) (~~By September 1, 2006, subject to the availability of amounts~~  
8 ~~appropriated for this specific purpose~~) Beginning September 1, 2007,  
9 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall make  
10 available to school districts diagnostic assessments that help improve  
11 student learning. To the greatest extent possible, the assessments  
12 shall be:

13 (a) Aligned to the state's grade level expectations;

14 (b) Individualized to each student's performance level;

15 (c) Administered efficiently to provide results either immediately  
16 or within two weeks;

17 (d) Capable of measuring individual student growth over time and  
18 allowing student progress to be compared to other students across the  
19 country; (~~and~~)

20 (e) Readily available to parents; and

21 (f) Cost-effective.

22 (5) Beginning with the 2006-07 school year, the superintendent of  
23 public instruction shall reimburse school districts, from funds  
24 appropriated for this purpose, for administration of diagnostic  
25 assessments in grades nine and ten for the purpose of identifying  
26 academic weaknesses and developing targeted instructional strategies to  
27 assist students before the high school Washington assessment of student  
28 learning.

29 (6) The office of the superintendent of public instruction is  
30 encouraged to offer at (~~their~~) statewide and regional staff  
31 development activities training opportunities that would assist  
32 practitioners in:

33 (a) The interpretation of diagnostic assessments; and

34 (b) Application of instructional strategies that will increase  
35 student learning based on diagnostic assessment data.

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