
HOUSE BILL 2941

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall, P. Sullivan, Haigh, McCoy, Kenney, Santos and Simpson

Read first time 01/17/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to phasing in state academic requirements for the
2 certificate of academic achievement; and amending RCW 28A.655.061.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2004 c 19 s 101 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
7 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities
8 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which
9 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature
10 pursuant to subsection ~~((+11+))~~ (10) of this section, one or more
11 objective alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate
12 achievement of state academic ~~((standards))~~ requirements. The
13 objective alternative assessments for each content area shall be
14 comparable in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must
15 demonstrate on the Washington assessment of student learning for each
16 content area.

17 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
18 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
19 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met

1 the state (~~standard~~) requirements in the content areas included in
2 the certificate. With the exception of students satisfying the
3 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is
4 required for graduation from a public high school but is not the only
5 requirement for graduation.

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

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

35 ~~(5)~~) The state board of education may not require the acquisition
36 of the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based
37 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private

1 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the
2 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045.

3 ~~((+6))~~ (5) A student may retain and use the highest result from
4 each successfully completed content area of the high school assessment.

5 ~~((+7))~~ (6) Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, the
6 highest scale score and level achieved in each content area on the high
7 school Washington assessment of student learning shall be displayed on
8 a student's transcript. In addition, beginning with the graduating
9 class of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's designation on
10 his or her transcript for each content area in which the student
11 achieves level four the first time the student takes that content area
12 assessment.

13 ~~((+8))~~ (7) Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available
14 to students the following options:

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

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

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

36 ~~((+11))~~ (10) The office of the superintendent of public
37 instruction shall develop options for implementing objective
38 alternative assessments, which may include an appeals process, for

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

13 ((+12)) (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives
14 and senate education committees shall obtain information and
15 conclusions from recognized, independent, national assessment experts
16 regarding the validity and reliability of the high school Washington
17 assessment of student learning for making individual student high
18 school graduation determinations.

19 ((+13)) (12) To help assure continued progress in academic
20 achievement as a foundation for high school graduation and to assure
21 that students are on track for high school graduation, each school
22 district shall prepare plans for students as provided in this
23 subsection ((+13)) (12).

24 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth
25 grade students who were not (~~successful~~) proficient on any or all of
26 the content areas of the Washington assessment for student learning
27 during the previous school year. The plan shall include the courses,
28 competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet
29 the state (~~academic standards~~) requirements and stay on track for
30 graduation. This requirement shall be phased in as follows:

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

34 (ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every year
35 thereafter eighth grade students as described in this subsection
36 ((+13)) (12)(a) shall have a plan.

37 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through
38 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington

1 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
2 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
3 was (~~unsuccessful~~) not proficient, strategies to help them improve
4 their student's skills, and the content of the student's plan.

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

8 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year
9 thereafter, all fifth grade students who were not (~~successful~~)
10 proficient in one or more of the content areas of the fourth grade
11 Washington assessment of student learning shall have a student learning
12 plan.

13 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this
14 subsection (~~(13)~~) (12)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a
15 parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
16 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
17 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
18 was (~~unsuccessful~~) not proficient, and provide strategies to help
19 them improve their student's skills.

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

23 (13) In order to meet state requirements and earn a certificate of
24 academic achievement, a student must meet or exceed either the
25 proficient or basic level on the high school Washington assessment of
26 student learning as follows:

27 (a) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008 and until July 31,
28 2010, the student must meet or exceed the proficient level in two and
29 meet or exceed the basic level in one of the reading, writing, and
30 mathematics content areas on the high school Washington assessment of
31 student learning or an approved alternative assessment;

32 (b) Beginning August 1, 2010, and until July 31, 2012, the student
33 must meet or exceed the proficient level in all three content areas of
34 reading, writing, and mathematics on the high school Washington
35 assessment of student learning or an approved alternative assessment;
36 and

37 (c) Beginning August 1, 2012, and thereafter, a student must meet

1 or exceed the proficient level in all four content areas of reading,
2 writing, mathematics, and science on the high school Washington
3 assessment of student learning or an approved alternative assessment.

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