
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5638

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education
(originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Rasmussen and Poulsen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to student assessments; and amending RCW
2 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) of this section,))~~ one or more objective
11 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of
12 state academic standards, and any appeals process. The objective
13 alternative assessments for each content area shall be ~~((comparable in
14 rigor to))~~ equal to or greater than the rigor in the skills and
15 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
16 assessment of student learning for each 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 in the content areas included in the certificate.
2 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
3 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation
4 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for
5 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 the high school Washington assessment of student
10 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a
11 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more
12 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,
13 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to
14 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully
15 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the
16 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once
17 objective alternative assessments are (~~authorized~~) implemented
18 pursuant to subsection (11) of this section, a student may use the
19 objective alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student
20 successfully meets the state standards for that content area if the
21 student has retaken the Washington assessment of student learning at
22 least once. If the student successfully meets the state standards on
23 the objective alternative assessments then the student shall earn a
24 certificate of academic achievement. The student's transcript shall
25 note whether the certificate of academic achievement was acquired by
26 means of the Washington assessment of student learning or by an
27 alternative assessment.

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

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

1 (6) A student may retain and use the highest result from each
2 successfully completed content area of the high school assessment. A
3 student may combine content area results from the Washington assessment
4 of student learning and any subsequent retakes of the assessment and
5 results from any alternative assessments to demonstrate achievement of
6 state academic standards.

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

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

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

20 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
21 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
22 state standards 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) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the high
28 school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall pay for
29 retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the
30 superintendent of public instruction.

31 (10) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall pilot
32 opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning in the
33 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)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
37 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative
38 assessments(~~(, which may include an appeals process,)~~) for students to

1 demonstrate achievement of the state academic standards. The objective
2 alternative assessments shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
3 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
4 assessment of student learning and be objective in its determination of
5 student achievement of the state standards. Before any objective
6 alternative assessments are used by a student to demonstrate that the
7 student has met the state standards in a content area required to
8 obtain a certificate, the ~~((legislature shall formally approve the use
9 of any objective alternative assessments through the omnibus
10 appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution))~~
11 superintendent of public instruction shall provide to the education
12 committees of the legislature an opportunity to review any and all
13 options developed and planned for implementation by January 15th of the
14 school year before the school year planned for implementation.

15 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
16 pilot two or more alternative assessments in the 2005-06 school year,
17 with the goal of implementing at least one alternative assessment in
18 the 2006-07 school year. The superintendent of public instruction
19 shall direct school districts to make available for student use any
20 alternative assessments reviewed by the education committees of the
21 legislature and deemed adequate by the superintendent of public
22 instruction for implementation. The implementation shall begin with
23 options that are complete and, to the extent funds are appropriated,
24 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall continue
25 to develop, pilot, and implement additional alternative assessments.
26 In its development and implementation of alternative assessments, the
27 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall consult with
28 parents, administrators, practicing classroom teachers including
29 teachers in career and technical education, practicing principals,
30 employers, tribal representatives from federally recognized tribes of
31 Washington state and tribes that have signed the Washington state
32 centennial accord, appropriate agencies, professional organizations,
33 assessment experts, and other interested parties.

34 ~~((By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and~~
35 ~~senate education committees shall obtain information and conclusions~~
36 ~~from recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the~~
37 ~~validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of~~
38 ~~student learning for making individual student high school graduation~~

1 ~~determinations~~) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
2 shall develop appeals processes for use by students no later than the
3 2007-08 school year. The appeals processes shall be developed with
4 criteria that can be consistently applied throughout the state.

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~~) did not score the level of
11 proficient on any or all of the content areas of the Washington
12 assessment for student learning during the previous school year. The
13 plan shall include the courses, competencies, and other steps needed to
14 be taken by the student to meet state academic standards and stay on
15 track for graduation. This 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~~) not proficient, strategies to help them improve
26 their student's 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~~) did
32 not score the level of proficient in one or more of the content areas
33 of the fourth grade Washington assessment of student learning shall
34 have a student learning plan.

35 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this
36 subsection (13)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a parent
37 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of
38 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~~) not proficient, and provide strategies to help them
3 improve their 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.

7 (14) Beginning in the 2005-06 school year and every year
8 thereafter, each public high school shall notify students and parents,
9 in the primary language of parents to the extent practicable, of the
10 options under the high school assessment system and any appeals
11 processes for students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic
12 standards.

13 (15) Beginning in the 2005-06 school year and every year
14 thereafter, each public high school shall notify students and parents,
15 in the primary language of parents to the extent practicable, of the
16 different courses and programs in career and technical education and
17 those offered through area skill centers that provide students the
18 skills and knowledge in those content areas assessed by the high school
19 assessment system and included in the certificate of academic
20 achievement.

--- END ---