
SENATE BILL 5638

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Rasmussen and Poulsen

Read first time 01/31/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to student assessments; and amending RCW
2 28A.655.061 and 28A.305.220.

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~~) two or more
11 objective alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate
12 achievement of state academic standards in the content areas in which
13 the student was not successful on the Washington assessment of student
14 learning. The objective alternative assessments for each content area
15 shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the
16 student must demonstrate on the Washington assessment of student
17 learning for each content area.

18 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
19 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the

1 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
2 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
3 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
4 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation
5 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for
6 graduation.

7 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
8 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who
9 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics
10 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student
11 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a
12 student does not successfully meet the state standards 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 on a retake of the assessment then the
17 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once
18 objective alternative assessments are ~~((authorized))~~ implemented
19 pursuant to subsection (11) of this section, a student may use the
20 objective alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student
21 successfully meets the state standards for that content area if the
22 student has ~~((retaken))~~ taken the Washington assessment of student
23 learning ~~((at least once))~~. If the student successfully meets the
24 state standards on the objective alternative assessments then the
25 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. ~~((The
26 student's transcript shall note whether the certificate of academic
27 achievement was acquired by means of the Washington assessment of
28 student learning or by an alternative assessment.))~~

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

34 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of
35 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based
36 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private
37 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the
38 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 the objective alternative assessment to demonstrate
6 achievement of state academic standards.

7 ~~((Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, the highest~~
8 ~~scale 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
11 class of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's designation on
12 his or her transcript for each content area in which the student
13 achieves 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) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
37 develop options for implementing objective alternative assessments(~~(~~
38 ~~which may include an appeals process,~~) for students to demonstrate

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

11 ~~(12) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate
12 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from
13 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the
14 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of
15 student learning for making individual student high school graduation
16 determinations.))~~ The office of the superintendent of public
17 instruction shall pilot two or more objective alternative assessments
18 in the 2005-06 school year. At least one objective alternative
19 assessment shall be implemented in the 2006-07 school year. As
20 additional objective alternative assessments are made available, the
21 superintendent of public instruction shall direct school districts to
22 implement the assessments. The implementation shall begin with options
23 that are complete and, to the extent funds are appropriated, the office
24 of the superintendent of public instruction shall continue to develop,
25 pilot, and implement additional alternative assessments. In its
26 development and implementation of objective alternative assessments,
27 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall consult
28 with parents, administrators, practicing classroom teachers including
29 teachers in career and technical education, practicing principals,
30 tribal representatives from federally recognized and confederated
31 tribes, appropriate agencies, professional organizations, assessment
32 experts, and other interested parties.

33 (12) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
34 develop appeals procedures with criteria that can be consistently
35 applied throughout the state.

36 (13) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
37 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are

1 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare
2 plans for students as provided in this subsection (~~(13)~~)).

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

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

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

15 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through
16 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
17 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
18 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
19 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's
20 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

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

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

28 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this
29 subsection (13)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a parent
30 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of
31 student learning, actions the school intends to take to improve the
32 student's skills in any content area in which the student was
33 unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their
34 student's skills.

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

1 (14) Beginning in the 2005-06 school year and every year
2 thereafter, each public high school shall notify students and parents
3 of the options under the high school assessment system and any appeals
4 processes for students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic
5 standards.

6 (15) Beginning in the 2005-06 school year and every year
7 thereafter, each public high school shall notify students and parents
8 of the different courses and programs in career and technical education
9 and those offered through area skill centers that provide students the
10 skills and knowledge in those content areas assessed by the high school
11 assessment system and included in the certificate of academic
12 achievement.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.305.220 and 2004 c 19 s 108 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) The state board of education shall develop for use by all
16 public school districts a standardized high school transcript. The
17 state board of education shall establish clear definitions for the
18 terms "credits" and "hours" so that school programs operating on the
19 quarter, semester, or trimester system can be compared.

20 (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include the
21 following information:

22 ~~(a) ((The highest scale score and level achieved in each content~~
23 ~~area on the high school Washington assessment of student learning or~~
24 ~~other high school measures successfully completed by the student as~~
25 ~~provided by RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.155.045;~~

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

27 ~~((e))~~ (b) A notation of whether the student has earned a
28 certificate of individual achievement or a certificate of academic
29 achievement ~~((by means of the Washington assessment of student learning~~
30 ~~or by an alternative assessment))~~.

31 (3) Transcripts are important documents to students who will apply
32 for admission to postsecondary institutions of higher education.
33 Transcripts are also important to students who will seek employment
34 upon or prior to graduation from high school. It is recognized that
35 student transcripts may be the only record available to employers in
36 their decision-making processes regarding prospective employees. The
37 superintendent of public instruction shall require school districts to

1 inform annually all high school students that prospective employers may
2 request to see transcripts and that the prospective employee's decision
3 to release transcripts can be an important part of the process of
4 applying for employment.

--- END ---