
SENATE BILL 6435

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Rockefeller and Shin

Read first time 01/12/2006. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a certificate of academic progress; adding a new
2 section to chapter 28A.655 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The high school graduates of 2008 will be
5 the first graduating class for which passage of the Washington
6 assessment of student learning or an alternative assessment to earn the
7 certificate of academic achievement under RCW 28A.655.061 or the
8 certificate of individual achievement under RCW 28A.155.045 is required
9 in order to obtain a high school diploma. The legislature recognizes
10 that passage of the Washington assessment of student learning or an
11 alternative assessment is only one of four graduation requirements for
12 students. While some students may need additional time beyond high
13 school to pass the Washington assessment of student learning or an
14 alternative assessment and achieve a diploma, the legislature finds
15 that it is important to recognize and celebrate the successes of
16 students in meeting the other three graduation requirements. In light
17 of the social importance that commencement ceremonies hold for the
18 families and friends of students, as well as the necessity of having a
19 standardized practice throughout the state, the legislature intends to

1 create the certificate of academic progress, which shall be awarded to
2 those students who have met all high school graduation requirements
3 except passage of the tenth grade Washington assessment of student
4 learning or an alternative assessment. The certificate of academic
5 progress is intended to honor the student's accomplishments while also
6 providing the student with the guidance and encouragement necessary
7 ultimately to succeed in attaining a high school diploma.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) Beginning with the high school graduating class of 2008, a
11 certificate of academic progress shall be available to students who
12 have completed all state and local requirements for high school
13 graduation except obtaining a certificate of academic achievement under
14 RCW 28A.655.061 or a certificate of individual achievement under RCW
15 28A.155.045. The certificate of academic progress is not the
16 equivalent of a high school diploma, but enables students to
17 participate in commencement ceremonies upon meeting the criteria in
18 this section.

19 (2) To be eligible for a certificate of academic progress, a
20 student must:

21 (a) Pass all state and local high school graduation requirements
22 except for obtaining a certificate of academic achievement or a
23 certificate of individual achievement and must have taken at least one
24 retake;

25 (b) Maintain at least a ninety percent attendance level during the
26 senior year of high school, however the school district superintendent
27 may waive this requirement upon the student providing documentation of
28 circumstances such as illness that warrant waiving this requirement;
29 and

30 (c) Meet with counselors, teachers, and parents, as appropriate, to
31 update the student's high school and beyond plan.

--- END ---