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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6475**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Schmidt, Eide, Weinstein, Haugen, Berkey, Kastama, Shin, Kohl-Welles and Rasmussen; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/06.

1       AN ACT Relating to authorizing alternative methods of assessment  
2 and appeal processes for the certificate of academic achievement;  
3 adding new sections to chapter 28A.655 RCW; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 28C.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8       (1) Beginning in the 2006-07 school year, the superintendent of  
9 public instruction shall implement three objective alternative  
10 assessment methods as provided in this section for students to  
11 demonstrate achievement of the state standards in content areas in  
12 which the student has not yet met the standard on the high school  
13 Washington assessment of student learning. A student may access any  
14 alternative if the student meets applicable eligibility criteria in RCW  
15 28A.655.061 and any other eligibility criteria established by the  
16 superintendent of public instruction.

17       (2) For the purposes of this section, "applicant" means a student  
18 seeking to use one of the alternative assessment methods in this  
19 section.

1 (3) The alternative assessment methods shall include:

2 (a) A combination of the applicant's grades in applicable courses  
3 and the applicant's highest score on the high school Washington  
4 assessment of student learning, as provided in this subsection.

5 (i) Using guidelines prepared by the superintendent of public  
6 instruction, a school district shall identify the group of students in  
7 the same school as the applicant who took the same high school courses  
8 as the applicant in the applicable content area. From the group of  
9 students identified in this manner, the district shall select the  
10 comparison cohort that shall be those students who met or slightly  
11 exceeded the state standard on the Washington assessment of student  
12 learning.

13 (ii) The district shall compare the applicant's grades in high  
14 school courses in the applicable content area to the grades of students  
15 in the comparison cohort for the same high school courses. If the  
16 applicant's grades are equal to or above the mean grades of the  
17 comparison cohort, the applicant shall be deemed to have met the state  
18 standard on the alternative assessment.

19 (iii) An applicant may not use the alternative assessment under  
20 this subsection (3)(a) if there are fewer than six students in the  
21 comparison cohort.

22 (b) An evaluation of a collection of work samples prepared and  
23 submitted by the applicant, as provided in this subsection, and for  
24 career and technical applicants, the additional requirements of (c) of  
25 this subsection.

26 (i) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop  
27 guidelines for the types and number of work samples in each content  
28 area that may be submitted as a collection to evidence that the  
29 applicant has met the state standard in that content area. Work  
30 samples may be collected from academic, career and technical, or  
31 remedial courses and may include performance tasks as well as written  
32 products.

33 (ii) The superintendent shall develop protocols for submission of  
34 the collection of work samples that include affidavits from the  
35 applicant's teachers and school district that the samples are the work  
36 of the applicant and a requirement that a portion of the samples be  
37 prepared under the direct supervision of a classroom teacher.

1 (iii) The superintendent shall develop uniform scoring criteria for  
2 evaluating the collection of work samples. Collections shall be scored  
3 at the state level or regionally by a panel of educators selected and  
4 trained by the superintendent to ensure objectivity, reliability, and  
5 rigor in the evaluation. An educator may not score work samples  
6 submitted by applicants from the educator's school district. If the  
7 panel awards an applicant's collection of work samples the minimum  
8 required score, the applicant shall be deemed to have met the state  
9 standard on the alternative assessment.

10 (c) An evaluation of a collection of work samples prepared and  
11 submitted by an applicant who is enrolled in a career and technical  
12 education program approved under section 2 of this act, as provided in  
13 this subsection (3)(c) and (b) of this subsection. To meet the state  
14 standard on the alternative assessment under this subsection (3)(c), an  
15 applicant must also attain the state or nationally recognized  
16 certificate or credential associated with the approved career and  
17 technical program. The superintendent of public instruction shall  
18 develop guidelines for the collection of work samples that evidences  
19 that the collection:

20 (i) Is relevant to the student's particular career and technical  
21 program;

22 (ii) Focuses on the application of academic knowledge and skills  
23 within the program;

24 (iii) Includes completed activities or projects where demonstration  
25 of academic knowledge is inferred; and

26 (iv) Is related to the essential academic learning requirements and  
27 state standards that students must meet to earn a certificate of  
28 academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement, but also  
29 represents the knowledge and skills that successful individuals in the  
30 career and technical field of the approved program are expected to  
31 possess.

32 (4) In developing the work samples for subsection (3)(c) of this  
33 section, the superintendent shall consult with community and technical  
34 colleges, employers, the work force training and education coordinating  
35 board, apprenticeship programs, and other regional and national experts  
36 in career and technical education to create an appropriate collection  
37 of work samples and other evidence of a career and technical student's  
38 knowledge and skills on the state academic standards.

1 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall implement:

2 (a) By June 1, 2006, a process for students to appeal the score  
3 they received on the high school assessments; and

4 (b) By January 1, 2007, guidelines and appeal processes for waiving  
5 specific requirements in RCW 28A.655.061 pertaining to the certificate  
6 of academic achievement and to the certificate of individual  
7 achievement for students who:

8 (i) Transfer to a Washington public school in their junior or  
9 senior year with the intent of obtaining a public high school diploma;  
10 or

11 (ii) Have special, unavoidable circumstances.

12 (6)(a) The superintendent of public instruction shall study the  
13 feasibility of using existing mathematics assessments in languages  
14 other than English as an additional alternative assessment option. The  
15 study shall include an estimation of the cost of translating the tenth  
16 grade mathematics assessment into other languages and scoring the  
17 assessments should they be implemented.

18 (b) The superintendent of public instruction shall begin  
19 development of an additional alternative assessment option for  
20 mathematics that: Presents the mathematics essential learnings in  
21 segments for assessment; is comparable in content and rigor to the  
22 tenth grade mathematics assessment when all segments are considered  
23 together; is reliable and valid; and can be used to determine a  
24 student's academic performance level.

25 (7) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to  
26 implement this section.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.04 RCW  
28 to read as follows:

29 The superintendent of public instruction shall develop a list of  
30 approved career and technical education programs that qualify for the  
31 objective alternative assessment for career and technical students  
32 developed under section 1 of this act. Programs on the list must meet  
33 the following minimum criteria:

34 (1) Lead to a certificate or credential that is state or nationally  
35 recognized by trades, industries, or other professional associations as  
36 necessary for employment or advancement in that field;

1 (2) Require a sequenced progression of multiple courses, both  
2 exploratory and preparatory, that are vocationally intensive and  
3 rigorous; and

4 (3) Have a high potential for providing the program completer with  
5 gainful employment or entry into a postsecondary work force training  
6 program.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655  
8 RCW to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** By January 2007, the superintendent of  
32 public instruction shall report the following, in detail, to the  
33 education committees of the legislature:

34 (1) The guidelines, protocols, and procedures used by the  
35 superintendent in implementing the alternative assessments,  
36 particularly the collection of evidence;

1           (2) A description of the training to be provided for school  
2 districts, educators serving on scoring panels, and teachers assisting  
3 students with collections of work samples;

4           (3) Updated data on the number of students using or likely to be  
5 eligible to use the alternative assessment methods; and

6           (4) The results of the study in section 1(6)(a) of this act and the  
7 development status of the additional assessment option in section  
8 1(6)(b) of this act.

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