
HOUSE BILL 1646

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Sullivan, Priest, Kenney, Morrell, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/26/09. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to making adjustments pertaining to the high school
2 Washington assessment of student learning in mathematics and science;
3 amending RCW 28A.655.0611, 28A.655.066, and 28A.655.061; and creating
4 new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In 2008, the legislature required that the
7 high school Washington assessment of student learning in mathematics be
8 changed to a series of end-of-course assessments and specified a
9 timeline for that change. At the same time but in separate
10 legislation, the legislature determined that additional work was needed
11 to revise and perfect the high school mathematics standards. The
12 result of the two policies is an implementation timeline for the new
13 mathematics end-of-course assessment that is incongruous with other
14 statutory timelines for using the assessment as a high school
15 graduation requirement. The legislature further finds that, although
16 the current assessment has been determined to be technically valid and
17 reliable for use as a high stakes test, adequate time and opportunity
18 for review must be provided to make the same assurance for the new end-
19 of-course assessment. Finally, the legislature finds that the issue of

1 whether revisions should be made to the high school science assessment,
2 including the timeline for requiring students to meet state standards
3 on the assessment for graduation, has not been resolved. Further
4 examination is timely because the science standards have been revised
5 and are ready for final adoption.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.0611 and 2007 c 354 s 4 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008 and through (~~no~~
9 ~~later than the graduating class of 2012~~) at least the graduating class
10 of 2013, students may graduate from high school without earning a
11 certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual
12 achievement if they:

13 (a) Have not successfully met the mathematics standard on the high
14 school Washington assessment of student learning or the sequence of
15 end-of-course assessments in mathematics under RCW 28A.655.066, an
16 approved objective alternative assessment, or an alternate assessment
17 developed for eligible special education students;

18 (b) Have successfully met the state standard in the other content
19 areas required for a certificate under RCW 28A.655.061 or 28A.155.045;

20 (c) Have met all other state and school district graduation
21 requirements; and

22 (d)(i) For the graduating class of 2008, successfully earn one
23 additional high school mathematics credit or career and technical
24 course equivalent, including courses offered at skill centers, after
25 the student's eleventh grade year intended to increase the student's
26 mathematics proficiency toward meeting or exceeding the mathematics
27 standards assessed on the high school Washington assessment of student
28 learning and continue to take the appropriate mathematics assessment at
29 least once annually until graduation; and

30 (ii) For the remaining graduating classes under this section,
31 successfully earn two additional mathematics credits or career and
32 technical course equivalent, including courses offered at skill
33 centers, after the student's tenth grade year intended to increase the
34 student's mathematics proficiency toward meeting or exceeding the
35 mathematics standards assessed on the high school Washington assessment
36 of student learning and continue to take the appropriate mathematics
37 assessment at least once annually until graduation.

1 (2) The state board of education may adopt a rule that (~~ends the~~
2 ~~application of this section with a graduating class before the~~
3 ~~graduating class of 2012, if the state board of education adopts the~~
4 ~~rule by September 1st of the freshman school year of the graduating~~
5 ~~class to which the provisions of this section no longer apply~~) extends
6 the application of this section to a graduating class or classes after
7 the graduating class of 2013 if the board determines that additional
8 time is needed before students are required to meet the state standard
9 on the high school mathematics assessment for purposes of high school
10 graduation. The determination of the state board under this subsection
11 shall be based primarily on an examination of the reliability and
12 validity of the mathematics end-of-course assessments for use as a high
13 stakes test for graduation purposes, but may include other
14 considerations. The state board of education's authority under this
15 section does not alter the requirement that any change in performance
16 standards for the tenth grade assessment must comply with RCW
17 28A.305.130.

18 (~~(3) This section expires August 31, 2013.~~)

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.066 and 2008 c 163 s 3 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (1) In consultation with the state board of education, the
22 superintendent of public instruction shall develop statewide end-of-
23 course assessments for high school mathematics that measure student
24 achievement of the state mathematics standards. The superintendent
25 shall take steps to ensure that the language of the assessments is
26 responsive to a diverse student population. The superintendent shall
27 develop end-of-course assessments in algebra I, geometry, integrated
28 mathematics I, and integrated mathematics II(~~(. The superintendent~~
29 ~~shall make the algebra I and integrated mathematics I end-of-course~~
30 ~~assessments available to school districts on an optional basis in the~~
31 ~~2009-10 school year. The end-of-course assessments in algebra I,~~
32 ~~geometry, integrated mathematics I, and integrated mathematics II)~~),
33 and the assessments shall be implemented statewide in the 2010-11
34 school year.

35 (2) (~~For the graduating class of 2013 and for purposes of the~~
36 ~~certificate of academic achievement under RCW 28A.655.061, results from~~
37 ~~the algebra I end-of-course assessment plus the geometry end-of-course~~

1 ~~assessment or results from the integrated mathematics I end-of-course~~
2 ~~assessment plus the integrated mathematics II end-of-course assessment~~
3 ~~may be used to demonstrate that a student meets the state standard on~~
4 ~~the mathematics content area of the high school Washington assessment~~
5 ~~of student learning.~~

6 ~~(3))~~ Beginning with the ~~((graduating class of 2014 and for~~
7 ~~purposes of the certificate of academic achievement under RCW~~
8 ~~28A.655.061))~~ 2010-11 school year, the mathematics content area of the
9 Washington assessment of student learning shall be assessed using
10 either the algebra I end-of-course assessment plus the geometry end-of-
11 course assessment or the integrated mathematics I end-of-course
12 assessment plus the integrated mathematics II end-of-course assessment.
13 All of the objective alternative assessments available to students
14 under RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.655.065 shall be available to any student
15 who has taken the sequence of end-of-course assessments once but does
16 not meet the state mathematics standard on the sequence of end-of-
17 course assessments.

18 ~~((4))~~ (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall report
19 at least annually or more often if necessary to keep the education
20 committees of the legislature informed on each step of the development
21 and implementation process under this section.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The state board of education shall analyze
23 the feasibility of the current statutory timeline for students to meet
24 the state standard in the science content area of the current
25 Washington assessment of student learning for purposes of high school
26 graduation. The analysis shall examine trends and projections of
27 student performance on the science assessment, time available in the
28 school day and school week for science instruction, implementation of
29 the revised science standards, whether science curricula used by school
30 districts aligns with the recommended curricula, the availability of an
31 adequate number of highly qualified science teachers, trends in the
32 design of high school science assessments in other states, and the
33 possible impact of new graduation requirements in science. The board
34 shall submit the analysis to the governor and the education committees
35 of the legislature by December 1, 2009, with recommendations on whether
36 the graduation requirement timeline should be adjusted, whether the

1 assessment design should be changed, and any other recommendations for
2 improvement of science teaching and learning.

3 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2008 c 321 s 2 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

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

15 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
16 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
17 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
18 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
19 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
20 28A.155.045 or 28A.655.0611, acquisition of the certificate is required
21 for graduation from a public high school but is not the only
22 requirement for graduation.

23 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
24 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who
25 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics
26 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student
27 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a
28 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more
29 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,
30 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to
31 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully
32 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the
33 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once
34 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection
35 (10) of this section, a student may use the objective alternative
36 assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully meets the
37 state standards for that content area if the student has taken the

1 Washington assessment of student learning at least once. If the
2 student successfully meets the state standards on the objective
3 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of
4 academic achievement.

5 (4) Beginning no later than with the graduating class of 2013, a
6 student must meet the state standards in science in addition to the
7 other content areas required under subsection (3) of this section on
8 the Washington assessment of student learning or the objective
9 alternative assessments in order to earn a certificate of academic
10 achievement. ~~((The state board of education may adopt a rule that
11 implements the requirements of this subsection (4) beginning with a
12 graduating class before the graduating class of 2013, if the state
13 board of education adopts the rule by September 1st of the freshman
14 school year of the graduating class to which the requirements of this
15 subsection (4) apply. The state board of education's authority under
16 this subsection (4) does not alter the requirement that any change in
17 performance standards for the tenth grade assessment must comply with
18 RCW 28A.305.130.))~~

19 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of
20 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based
21 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private
22 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the
23 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045.

24 (6) A student may retain and use the highest result from each
25 successfully completed content area of the high school assessment.

26 (7) School districts must make available to students the following
27 options:

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

31 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
32 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
33 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion
34 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of
35 public instruction and the state board for community and technical
36 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these
37 programs can be assessed.

1 (8) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the high
2 school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall pay for
3 retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the
4 superintendent of public instruction.

5 (9) Opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year
6 shall be available to each school district.

7 (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
8 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative
9 assessments, which may include an appeals process for students' scores,
10 for students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic
11 standards. The objective alternative assessments shall be comparable
12 in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate
13 on the Washington assessment of student learning and be objective in
14 its determination of student achievement of the state standards.
15 Before any objective alternative assessments in addition to those
16 authorized in RCW 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a
17 student to demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in
18 a content area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall
19 formally approve the use of any objective alternative assessments
20 through the omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent
21 resolution.

22 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English, or
23 writing portion of the (~~scholastic assessment test~~(+))SAT((+)) or the
24 (~~American college test~~(+))ACT((+)) may be used as an objective
25 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
26 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate of
27 academic achievement. The state board of education shall identify the
28 scores students must achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT or ACT
29 to meet or exceed the state standard in the relevant content area on
30 the Washington assessment of student learning. The state board of
31 education shall identify the first scores by December 1, 2007. After
32 the first scores are established, the state board may increase but not
33 decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed the state
34 standards.

35 (ii) (~~Until August 31, 2008, a student's score on the mathematics~~
36 ~~portion of the preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) may be~~
37 ~~used as an objective alternative assessment under this section for~~
38 ~~demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded the state standard for~~

1 ~~the certificate of academic achievement. The state board of education~~
2 ~~shall identify the score students must achieve on the mathematics~~
3 ~~portion of the PSAT to meet or exceed the state standard in that~~
4 ~~content area on the Washington assessment of student learning.~~

5 (iii)) A student who scores at least a three on the grading scale
6 of one to five for selected AP examinations may use the score as an
7 objective alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating
8 that a student has met or exceeded state standards for the certificate
9 of academic achievement. A score of three on the AP examinations in
10 calculus or statistics may be used as an alternative assessment for the
11 mathematics portion of the Washington assessment of student learning.
12 A score of three on the AP examinations in English language and
13 composition may be used as an alternative assessment for the writing
14 portion of the Washington assessment of student learning. A score of
15 three on the AP examinations in English literature and composition,
16 macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United States history,
17 world history, United States government and politics, or comparative
18 government and politics may be used as an alternative assessment for
19 the reading portion of the Washington assessment of student learning.

20 (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate
21 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from
22 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the
23 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of
24 student learning for making individual student high school graduation
25 determinations.

26 (12) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
27 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are
28 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare
29 plans for and notify students and their parents or legal guardians as
30 provided in this subsection (12).

31 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth
32 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content
33 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the
34 previous school year or who may not be on track to graduate due to
35 credit deficiencies or absences. The parent or legal guardian shall be
36 notified about the information in the student learning plan, preferably
37 through a parent conference and at least annually. To the extent
38 feasible, schools serving English language learner students and their

1 parents shall translate the plan into the primary language of the
2 family. The plan shall include the following information as
3 applicable:

4 (i) The student's results on the Washington assessment of student
5 learning;

6 (ii) If the student is in the transitional bilingual program, the
7 score on his or her Washington language proficiency test II;

8 (iii) Any credit deficiencies;

9 (iv) The student's attendance rates over the previous two years;

10 (v) The student's progress toward meeting state and local
11 graduation requirements;

12 (vi) The courses, competencies, and other steps needed to be taken
13 by the student to meet state academic standards and stay on track for
14 graduation;

15 (vii) Remediation strategies and alternative education options
16 available to students, including informing students of the option to
17 continue to receive instructional services after grade twelve or until
18 the age of twenty-one;

19 (viii) The alternative assessment options available to students
20 under this section and RCW 28A.655.065;

21 (ix) School district programs, high school courses, and career and
22 technical education options available for students to meet graduation
23 requirements; and

24 (x) Available programs offered through skill centers or community
25 and technical colleges.

26 (b) All fifth grade students who were not successful in one or more
27 of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of
28 student learning shall have a student learning plan.

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

1 plan made as necessary.

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