
HOUSE BILL 1758

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall, Hope, Wallace, Sullivan, Goodman, Kagi, Santos, Morrell, Hasegawa, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/28/09. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding options for students to earn high
2 school diplomas; amending RCW 28B.50.535, 28A.225.290, 28A.600.320, and
3 28A.655.061; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature has previously affirmed the
6 value of career and technical education, particularly in programs that
7 lead to nationally recognized certification. These programs provide
8 students with the knowledge and skills to become responsible citizens
9 and contribute to their own economic well-being and that of their
10 families and communities, which is the goal of education in the public
11 schools. The legislature has also previously affirmed the value of
12 dual enrollment in college and high school programs that can lead to
13 both an associate degree and a high school diploma. Therefore, the
14 legislature intends to maximize students' options and choices for
15 completing high school by awarding diplomas to students who complete
16 these valuable postsecondary programs.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.535 and 2007 c 355 s 2 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

1 A community or technical college may issue a high school diploma or
2 certificate as provided under this section.

3 (1) An individual who satisfactorily meets the requirements for
4 high school completion shall be awarded a diploma from the college,
5 subject to rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction
6 and the state board of education.

7 (2) An individual who enrolls in a college and satisfactorily
8 completes an associate degree, including an associate of arts degree,
9 associate of science degree, associate of technology degree, or
10 associate in applied science degree, shall be awarded a diploma from
11 the college, including students enrolled through the option established
12 under RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.400.

13 (3) An individual who has achieved at least the equivalent of
14 eleventh grade who enrolls in a college and satisfactorily completes a
15 professional-technical certificate program approved by the college
16 board that requires forty-five or more credit hours or the clock hour
17 equivalent shall be awarded a diploma from the college, including
18 students enrolled through the option established under RCW 28A.600.310
19 through 28A.600.400.

20 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.225.290 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 9 s 207 are each
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare and
23 annually distribute an information booklet outlining parents' and
24 guardians' enrollment options for their children.

25 (2) (~~Before the 1991-92 school year,~~) The booklet shall be
26 distributed to all school districts by the office of the superintendent
27 of public instruction and shall be posted on the web site of the office
28 of the superintendent of public instruction. School districts shall
29 have a copy of the information booklet available for public inspection
30 at each school in the district, at the district office, and in public
31 libraries.

32 (3) The booklet shall include:

33 (a) Information about enrollment options and program opportunities,
34 including but not limited to programs in RCW 28A.225.220, 28A.185.040,
35 28A.225.200 through 28A.225.215, 28A.225.230 through 28A.225.250,
36 (~~28A.175.090,~~) 28A.340.010 through 28A.340.070 (small high school
37 cooperative projects), and 28A.335.160.

1 (b) Information about the running start(~~((community college or~~
2 ~~vocational technical institute))~~) choice program under RCW 28A.600.300
3 through (~~(28A.600.395))~~ 28A.600.400; (~~and~~))

4 (c) Information about the seventh and eighth grade choice program
5 under RCW 28A.230.090; and

6 (d) Information about the college high school diploma options under
7 RCW 28B.50.535.

8 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.600.320 and 2008 c 95 s 3 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 A school district shall provide general information about the
11 program to all pupils in grades ten, eleven, and twelve and the parents
12 and guardians of those pupils, including information about the
13 opportunity to enroll in the program through online courses available
14 at community and technical colleges and other state institutions of
15 higher education and including the college high school diploma options
16 under RCW 28B.50.535. To assist the district in planning, a pupil
17 shall inform the district of the pupil's intent to enroll in courses at
18 an institution of higher education for credit. Students are
19 responsible for applying for admission to the institution of higher
20 education.

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

23 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
24 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities
25 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which
26 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature
27 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, one or more objective
28 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of
29 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for
30 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
31 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
32 assessment of student learning for each content area.

33 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
34 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
35 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
36 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.

1 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
2 28A.155.045 or 28A.655.0611, acquisition of the certificate is required
3 for graduation from a public high school but is not the only
4 requirement for graduation.

5 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
6 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who
7 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics
8 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student
9 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a
10 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more
11 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,
12 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to
13 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully
14 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the
15 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once
16 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection
17 (10) of this section, a student may use the objective alternative
18 assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully meets the
19 state standards for that content area if the student has taken the
20 Washington assessment of student learning at least once. If the
21 student successfully meets the state standards on the objective
22 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of
23 academic achievement.

24 (4) Beginning no later than with the graduating class of 2013, a
25 student must meet the state standards in science in addition to the
26 other content areas required under subsection (3) of this section on
27 the Washington assessment of student learning or the objective
28 alternative assessments in order to earn a certificate of academic
29 achievement. The state board of education may adopt a rule that
30 implements the requirements of this subsection (4) beginning with a
31 graduating class before the graduating class of 2013, if the state
32 board of education adopts the rule by September 1st of the freshman
33 school year of the graduating class to which the requirements of this
34 subsection (4) apply. The state board of education's authority under
35 this subsection (4) does not alter the requirement that any change in
36 performance standards for the tenth grade assessment must comply with
37 RCW 28A.305.130.

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

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

8 (7) School districts must make available to students the following
9 options:

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

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

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

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

26 (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
27 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative
28 assessments, which may include an appeals process for students' scores,
29 for students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic
30 standards. The objective alternative assessments shall be comparable
31 in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate
32 on the Washington assessment of student learning and be objective in
33 its determination of student achievement of the state standards.
34 Before any objective alternative assessments in addition to those
35 authorized in RCW 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a
36 student to demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in
37 a content area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall

1 formally approve the use of any objective alternative assessments
2 through the omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent
3 resolution.

4 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English, or
5 writing portion of the (~~scholastic assessment test~~)SAT(+) or the
6 (~~American college test~~)ACT(+) may be used as an objective
7 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
8 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate of
9 academic achievement. The state board of education shall identify the
10 scores students must achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT or ACT
11 to meet or exceed the state standard in the relevant content area on
12 the Washington assessment of student learning. The state board of
13 education shall identify the first scores by December 1, 2007. After
14 the first scores are established, the state board may increase but not
15 decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed the state
16 standards.

17 (ii) Until August 31, 2008, a student's score on the mathematics
18 portion of the (~~preliminary scholastic assessment test~~)PSAT(+))
19 may be used as an objective alternative assessment under this section
20 for demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded the state standard
21 for the certificate of academic achievement. The state board of
22 education shall identify the score students must achieve on the
23 mathematics portion of the PSAT to meet or exceed the state standard in
24 that content area on the Washington assessment of student learning.

25 (iii) A student who scores at least a three on the grading scale of
26 one to five for selected AP examinations may use the score as an
27 objective alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating
28 that a student has met or exceeded state standards for the certificate
29 of academic achievement. A score of three on the AP examinations in
30 calculus or statistics may be used as an alternative assessment for the
31 mathematics portion of the Washington assessment of student learning.
32 A score of three on the AP examinations in English language and
33 composition may be used as an alternative assessment for the writing
34 portion of the Washington assessment of student learning. A score of
35 three on the AP examinations in English literature and composition,
36 macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United States history,
37 world history, United States government and politics, or comparative

1 government and politics may be used as an alternative assessment for
2 the reading portion of the Washington assessment of student learning.

3 (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate
4 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from
5 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the
6 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of
7 student learning for making individual student high school graduation
8 determinations.

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

14 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth
15 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content
16 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the
17 previous school year or who may not be on track to graduate due to
18 credit deficiencies or absences. The parent or legal guardian shall be
19 notified about the information in the student learning plan, preferably
20 through a parent conference and at least annually. To the extent
21 feasible, schools serving English language learner students and their
22 parents shall translate the plan into the primary language of the
23 family. The plan shall include the following information as
24 applicable:

25 (i) The student's results on the Washington assessment of student
26 learning;

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

29 (iii) Any credit deficiencies;

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

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

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

36 (vii) Remediation strategies and alternative education options
37 available to students, including informing students of the option to

1 continue to receive instructional services after grade twelve or until
2 the age of twenty-one;

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

5 (ix) School district programs, high school courses, and career and
6 technical education options available for students to meet graduation
7 requirements; and

8 (x) Available programs offered through skill centers or community
9 and technical colleges, including the college high school diploma
10 options under RCW 28B.50.535.

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

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

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

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