
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1944

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Children's Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, Walsh, Sullivan, Haigh, Carlyle, Quall, Kenney, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to developing and implementing a kindergarten
2 assessment; adding a new section to chapter 43.215 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320
4 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that gathering quality
7 information about a child's knowledge, skills, and abilities when the
8 child enters kindergarten empowers parents to assist in their
9 children's learning processes and supports educators in developing
10 meaningful instruction for the child. The legislature further finds
11 that a uniform kindergarten assessment process can provide valuable
12 feedback to early learning programs engaged in quality improvement
13 efforts and will support cross-systems communication and promote
14 seamless transitions to kindergarten for children and families. The
15 legislature also finds that stakeholder involvement is an important
16 element of successful program development and implementation. The
17 legislature further finds that the early learning advisory council
18 includes a broad continuum of stakeholder representation. It is

1 therefore the intent of the legislature to direct the council to
2 convene a work group to develop and implement a uniform statewide
3 kindergarten assessment process.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The early learning advisory council, in collaboration with the
7 office of the superintendent of public instruction, shall convene a
8 work group to develop and field test a statewide kindergarten
9 assessment process. The work group shall include representatives from
10 school districts, early learning providers, tribal councils, and
11 organizations or groups reflecting cultural and linguistic diversity.
12 The purposes of the assessment include:

13 (a) Providing parents and teachers with information about a child's
14 knowledge, skills, and abilities upon entering kindergarten in order to
15 inform instruction for the child;

16 (b) Facilitating communication with parents about what children are
17 learning and to empower parents to assist their children; and

18 (c) Providing feedback to early learning programs to enable
19 continuous improvement, support transitions, and improve alignment
20 between early learning programs and kindergarten classrooms. The
21 assessment shall not be used to screen or otherwise preclude children
22 from entering kindergarten if they are otherwise eligible for
23 enrollment.

24 (2) The kindergarten assessment shall be uniform across the state
25 and the assessment process must be:

26 (a) Developmentally appropriate and culturally and linguistically
27 relevant;

28 (b) Sufficiently flexible and adaptable to accommodate children
29 with disabilities and special needs;

30 (c) Cost-effective in a way that maximizes the benefit to students,
31 teachers, and parents and minimizes the use of resources that would
32 otherwise be available for instruction; and

33 (d) Designed to provide data and reporting using a single, easy-to-
34 use, web-based platform.

35 (3) The work group shall:

36 (a) Identify the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be assessed;

1 (b) Determine the extent of desirable alignment with early learning
2 standards and benchmarks;

3 (c) Define the assessment methodology and approaches to be
4 implemented for all children, including children from diverse cultures
5 and languages and children with disabilities and special needs;

6 (d) Specify data collection needs, tools, and procedures;

7 (e) Determine whether and how parents may opt out of the process
8 and forgo the assessment on behalf of a child;

9 (f) Identify a training plan and implementation strategy for use by
10 school districts and schools;

11 (g) Select schools and districts for the field test; and

12 (h) Examine results of the field test and make adjustments as
13 necessary or appropriate to any element of the process before statewide
14 implementation.

15 (4) The kindergarten assessment process shall be field-tested in
16 selected schools and districts during the 2010-11 school year.

17 (5) The work group shall provide a status report to the governor
18 and the legislature not later than January 15, 2010.

19 (6) Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, the office of the
20 superintendent of public instruction shall encourage all school
21 districts to implement the statewide kindergarten assessment process.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
25 collaboration with the early learning advisory council, shall convene
26 a work group to develop and field test a kindergarten assessment
27 process pursuant to section 4 of this act.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, the office of the
31 superintendent of public instruction shall encourage all school
32 districts to implement the statewide kindergarten assessment process
33 developed under section 2 of this act.

34 (2) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to

1 implement this section.

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