

SSB 5919 - S AMD 476

By Senators McAuliffe, Litzow

ADOPTED 05/25/2011

1 On page 19, after line 13, insert the following:

2 "Sec. 8. RCW 28A.655.061 and 2010 c 244 s 1 are each amended to  
3 read as follows:

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

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

22 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception  
23 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who  
24 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics  
25 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student  
26 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a  
27 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more  
28 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,  
29 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to  
30 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully

1 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the  
2 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once  
3 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection  
4 (10) of this section, a student may use the objective alternative  
5 assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully meets the  
6 state standards for that content area if the student has taken the  
7 Washington assessment of student learning at least once. If the  
8 student successfully meets the state standards on the objective  
9 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of  
10 academic achievement.

11 (4) Beginning (~~(no later than)~~) with the graduating class of  
12 (~~(2013)~~) 2015, a student must meet the state standards in science in  
13 addition to the other content areas required under subsection (3) of  
14 this section on the Washington assessment of student learning or the  
15 objective alternative assessments in order to earn a certificate of  
16 academic achievement. The state board of education may adopt a rule  
17 that implements the requirements of this subsection (4) beginning with  
18 a graduating class before the graduating class of 2013, if the state  
19 board of education adopts the rule by September 1st of the freshman  
20 school year of the graduating class to which the requirements of this  
21 subsection (4) apply. The state board of education's authority under  
22 this subsection (4) does not alter the requirement that any change in  
23 performance standards for the tenth grade assessment must comply with  
24 RCW 28A.305.130.

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

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

32 (7) School districts must make available to students the following  
33 options:

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

37 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to  
38 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the

1 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion  
2 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of  
3 public instruction and the state board for community and technical  
4 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these  
5 programs can be assessed.

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

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

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

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

1 (ii) Until August 31, 2008, a student's score on the mathematics  
2 portion of the PSAT may be used as an objective alternative assessment  
3 under this section for demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded  
4 the state standard for the certificate of academic achievement. The  
5 state board of education shall identify the score students must achieve  
6 on the mathematics portion of the PSAT to meet or exceed the state  
7 standard in that content area on the Washington assessment of student  
8 learning.

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

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

30 (12) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as  
31 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are  
32 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare  
33 plans for and notify students and their parents or legal guardians as  
34 provided in this subsection. Student learning plans are required for  
35 eighth grade students who were not successful on any or all of the  
36 content areas of the state assessment during the previous school year  
37 or who may not be on track to graduate due to credit deficiencies or  
38 absences. The parent or legal guardian shall be notified about the

1 information in the student learning plan, preferably through a parent  
2 conference and at least annually. To the extent feasible, schools  
3 serving English language learner students and their parents shall  
4 translate the plan into the primary language of the family. The plan  
5 shall include the following information as applicable:

- 6 (a) The student's results on the state assessment;
- 7 (b) If the student is in the transitional bilingual program, the  
8 score on his or her Washington language proficiency test II;
- 9 (c) Any credit deficiencies;
- 10 (d) The student's attendance rates over the previous two years;
- 11 (e) The student's progress toward meeting state and local  
12 graduation requirements;
- 13 (f) The courses, competencies, and other steps needed to be taken  
14 by the student to meet state academic standards and stay on track for  
15 graduation;
- 16 (g) Remediation strategies and alternative education options  
17 available to students, including informing students of the option to  
18 continue to receive instructional services after grade twelve or until  
19 the age of twenty-one;
- 20 (h) The alternative assessment options available to students under  
21 this section and RCW 28A.655.065;
- 22 (i) School district programs, high school courses, and career and  
23 technical education options available for students to meet graduation  
24 requirements; and
- 25 (j) Available programs offered through skill centers or community  
26 and technical colleges, including the college high school diploma  
27 options under RCW 28B.50.535."

28 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any  
29 internal references accordingly.

30 On page 19, line 16, after "c ... s" strike "5" and insert "6"

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**ADOPTED 05/25/2011**

- 1        On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "28A.300.380," strike "and"  
2        and after "28A.630.016" insert ", and 28A.655.061"

EFFECT:        The requirement that students pass the statewide assessment in science to graduate from high school is changed from beginning with the graduating class of 2013 to beginning with the graduating class of 2015.

**--- END ---**