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## Education Committee

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### HB 2586

**Brief Description:** Phasing-in statewide implementation of the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Kagi, Maxwell, Ladenburg, Dammeier, Kenney and Tharinger; by request of Department of Early Learning and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changes the implementation schedule for administration of the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 1/23/12

**Staff:** Cece Clynch (786-7195).

**Background:**

In 2009 the Legislature provided \$100,000 over the biennium, contingent on an equal match from private sources, for the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to work with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and others to identify and test a kindergarten assessment process and tools in geographically diverse school districts. During the fall of 2010, the OSPI piloted the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) with 2,600 incoming kindergarteners in 115 classrooms around the state. The purpose of the WaKIDS is to gather information about the child in order to better inform teacher instruction.

State-supported all-day kindergarten is in the process of being phased in across the state, beginning with schools with the highest poverty levels. Schools receiving funding for all-day kindergarten must agree to various program requirements, including providing at least 1,000 hours of instruction, providing a rich curriculum, and having connections with community early learning programs and parents.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, on a voluntary basis and to the extent funds are available, schools receiving all-day kindergarten state support must identify the skills, knowledge, and characteristics of kindergarten students at the beginning of the school year in order to support social-emotional, physical, and cognitive growth and development of individual children; support early learning provider and parent involvement; and inform instruction. Kindergarten teachers must administer the WaKIDS, as directed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) in consultation with the DEL, and report the results to the SPI, who will share the results with the Director of the DEL.

Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, to the extent funds are available, the WaKIDS must be administered to all students enrolled in state-funded all-day kindergarten programs. Parents and guardians may excuse their students from participating in the WaKIDS.

Until full-implementation of state-funded all-day kindergarten, the SPI, in consultation with the Director of DEL, may grant annually renewable waivers in order to allow the administration of kindergarten assessments other than the WaKIDS. An application for such a waiver must include specified components:

- a description of the assessment and transition processes that it proposes to administer;
- an explanation as to why administering the WaKIDS would be unduly burdensome; and
- an explanation of how the alternative assessment will support social-emotional, physical, and cognitive growth and development of individual children, support early learning provider and parent involvement, and inform instruction.

Before implementing the WaKIDS, the SPI and the DEL were required to ensure that a fairness and bias review of the assessment process has been conducted, including an opportunity for input from the Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee and an additional diverse group of stakeholders. A report on this review process was issued in July of 2011.

### **Summary of Bill:**

To the extent funds are available, the implementation schedule for the WaKIDS is as follows:

- Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, the WaKIDS must be administered to all students in state-funded all-day kindergarten.
- Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, according to a phase-in schedule developed by the SPI, school districts must administer the WaKIDS to all kindergarten students. This requirement applies to all public school kindergarten programs and not just to state-funded all-day kindergarten programs. The SPI must consult with the DEL in developing the phase-in schedule. Parents and guardians may still excuse their students from participating in the WaKIDS.
- In the 2014-15 school year and thereafter, the WaKIDS must be administered to all students enrolled in kindergarten programs in the public schools, except those excused by their parents or guardians.

Until full statewide implementation of the WaKIDS, the SPI, in consultation with the Director of the DEL, may grant annually renewable waivers in order to allow the administration of kindergarten assessments other than the WaKIDS.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 18, 2012.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.