
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1410

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 1st Special Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Santos, Dammeier, Probst, and Lillas; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 05/11/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to science end-of-course assessments; amending RCW
2 28A.655.061; adding a new section to chapter 28A.655 RCW; and creating
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature continues to support
6 end-of-course assessments as a fair and practical way to measure
7 students' knowledge and skills in high school science, but the
8 legislature also recognizes that there are important scientific
9 concepts, principles, and content that are not able to be captured in
10 a single course or a single assessment. The legislature also does not
11 wish to narrow the high school science curriculum to a singular focus
12 on biology.

13 (2) However, the legislature finds that the financial resources for
14 developing additional end-of-course assessments for high school science
15 are not available in the 2011-2013 biennium. Nevertheless, the
16 legislature intends to revisit this issue in the future and further
17 intends at an appropriate time to direct the superintendent of public
18 instruction to develop one or more end-of-course assessments in
19 additional science subjects.

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

3 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
4 limited to the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of student~~
5 ~~learning))~~, opportunities for a student to retake the content areas of
6 the assessment in which the student was not successful, and, if
7 approved by the legislature pursuant to subsection (10) of this
8 section, one or more objective alternative assessments for a student to
9 demonstrate achievement of state academic standards. The objective
10 alternative assessments for each content area shall be comparable in
11 rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate on
12 the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of student learning))~~
13 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))~~ statewide student
26 assessment ~~((of student learning))~~ shall earn a certificate of academic
27 achievement. If a student does not successfully meet the state
28 standards in one or more content areas required for the certificate of
29 academic achievement, then the student may retake the assessment in the
30 content area up to four times at no cost to the student. If the
31 student successfully meets the state standards on a retake of the
32 assessment then the student shall earn a certificate of academic
33 achievement. Once objective alternative assessments are authorized
34 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, a student may use the
35 objective alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student
36 successfully meets the state standards for that content area if the
37 student has taken the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of~~

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

4 (4) Beginning ~~((no-later-than))~~ with the graduating class of
5 ~~((2013))~~ 2015, a student must meet the state standards in science in
6 addition to the other content areas required under subsection (3) of
7 this section on the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of~~
8 ~~student learning~~) or the objective alternative assessments in order to
9 earn a certificate of academic achievement. ~~((The-state-board-of~~
10 ~~education may adopt a rule that implements the requirements of this~~
11 ~~subsection (4) beginning with a graduating class before the graduating~~
12 ~~class of 2013, if the state board of education adopts the rule by~~
13 ~~September 1st of the freshman school year of the graduating class to~~
14 ~~which the requirements of this subsection (4) apply. The state board~~
15 ~~of education's authority under this subsection (4) does not alter the~~
16 ~~requirement that any change in performance standards for the tenth~~
17 ~~grade assessment must comply with RCW 28A.305.130.))~~

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

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

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

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

31 (b) To retake the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of~~
32 ~~student learning~~) up to four times in the content areas in which the
33 student did not meet the state standards if the student is enrolled in
34 a high school completion program at a community or technical college.
35 The superintendent of public instruction and the state board for
36 community and technical colleges shall jointly identify means by which
37 students in these 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))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of student~~
14 ~~learning))~~ and be objective in its determination of student achievement
15 of the state standards. Before any objective alternative assessments
16 in addition to those authorized in RCW 28A.655.065 or (b) of this
17 subsection are used by a student to demonstrate that the student has
18 met the state standards in a content area required to obtain a
19 certificate, the legislature shall formally approve the use of any
20 objective alternative assessments through the omnibus appropriations
21 act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

22 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English, or
23 writing portion of the SAT or the ACT may be used as an objective
24 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
25 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate of
26 academic achievement. The state board of education shall identify the
27 scores students must achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT or ACT
28 to meet or exceed the state standard in the relevant content area on
29 the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of student learning.~~
30 ~~The state board of education shall identify the first scores by~~
31 ~~December 1, 2007)).~~ A student's score on the science portion of the
32 ACT or the science subject area tests of the SAT may be used as an
33 objective alternative assessment under this section as soon as the
34 state board of education determines that sufficient data is available
35 to identify reliable equivalent scores for the science content area of
36 the statewide student assessment. After the first scores are
37 established, the state board may increase but not decrease the scores
38 required for students to meet or exceed the state 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
10 of 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))~~ statewide student assessment
16 ~~((of student learning))~~. A score of three on the AP examinations in
17 English language and composition may be used as an alternative
18 assessment for the writing portion of the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide
19 student assessment ~~((of student learning))~~. A score of three on the AP
20 examinations in English literature and composition, macroeconomics,
21 microeconomics, psychology, United States history, world history,
22 United States government and politics, or comparative government and
23 politics may be used as an alternative assessment for the reading
24 portion of the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of student~~
25 ~~learning))~~. A score of three on the AP examination in biology,
26 physics, chemistry, or environmental science may be used as an
27 alternative assessment for the science portion of the statewide student
28 assessment.

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

35 (12) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
36 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are
37 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare
38 plans for and notify students and their parents or legal guardians as

1 provided in this subsection. Student learning plans are required for
2 eighth grade students who were not successful on any or all of the
3 content areas of the state assessment during the previous school year
4 or who may not be on track to graduate due to credit deficiencies or
5 absences. The parent or legal guardian shall be notified about the
6 information in the student learning plan, preferably through a parent
7 conference and at least annually. To the extent feasible, schools
8 serving English language learner students and their parents shall
9 translate the plan into the primary language of the family. The plan
10 shall include the following information as applicable:

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

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 (1) Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, the statewide high school
36 assessment in science shall be an end-of-course assessment for biology

1 that measures the state standards for life sciences, in addition to
2 systems, inquiry, and application as they pertain to life sciences.

3 (2) The superintendent of public instruction may develop science
4 end-of-course assessments in subjects in addition to biology for
5 purposes of RCW 28A.655.061, when so directed by the legislature.

6 (3) The superintendent of public instruction may participate with
7 consortia of multiple states as common student learning standards and
8 assessments in science are developed. The superintendent of public
9 instruction, in consultation with the state board of education, may
10 modify the essential academic learning requirements and statewide
11 student assessments in science, including the high school assessment,
12 according to the multistate common student learning standards and
13 assessments as long as the education committees of the legislature have
14 opportunities for review before the modifications are adopted, as
15 provided under RCW 28A.655.070.

16 (4) The statewide high school assessment under this section shall
17 be used to demonstrate that a student meets the state standards in the
18 science content area of the statewide student assessment for purposes
19 of RCW 28A.655.061.

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