
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1410

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 1st Special Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Santos, Dammeier, Probst, and Llias; 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 and 28A.155.045; adding new sections to chapter 28A.655
3 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning with the graduating class of 2014 and through no
8 later than the graduating class of 2016, students may graduate from
9 high school without earning a certificate of academic achievement or a
10 certificate of individual achievement if they:

11 (a) Have not successfully met the science standard on the statewide
12 high school science assessment, an approved objective alternative
13 assessment, or an alternate assessment developed for eligible special
14 education students;

15 (b) Have successfully met the state standard in the other content
16 areas required for a certificate under RCW 28A.655.061 or 28A.155.045;

17 (c) Have met all other state and school district graduation
18 requirements; and

1 (d) Successfully earn, after the school year in which they took the
2 statewide high school science assessment for the first time, one high
3 school science credit or credit that integrates science with
4 technology, engineering, or mathematics, including career and technical
5 course equivalents or courses offered at skill centers, that is
6 intended to increase the student's science proficiency toward meeting
7 or exceeding the science standards assessed on the statewide high
8 school science assessment.

9 (2) This section expires August 31, 2016.

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

12 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
13 limited to the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of student~~
14 ~~learning))~~, opportunities for a student to retake the content areas of
15 the assessment in which the student was not successful, and, if
16 approved by the legislature pursuant to subsection (10) of this
17 section, one or more objective alternative assessments for a student to
18 demonstrate achievement of state academic standards. The objective
19 alternative assessments for each content area shall be comparable in
20 rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate on
21 the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of student learning))~~
22 for each content area.

23 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
24 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
25 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
26 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
27 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
28 28A.155.045, section 1 of this act, or 28A.655.0611, acquisition of the
29 certificate is required for graduation from a public high school but is
30 not the only requirement for graduation.

31 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
32 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who
33 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics
34 content areas of the high school ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student
35 assessment ~~((of student learning))~~ shall earn a certificate of academic
36 achievement. If a student does not successfully meet the state
37 standards in one or more content areas required for the certificate of

1 academic achievement, then the student may retake the assessment in the
2 content area up to four times at no cost to the student. If the
3 student successfully meets the state standards on a retake of the
4 assessment then the student shall earn a certificate of academic
5 achievement. Once objective alternative assessments are authorized
6 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, a student may use the
7 objective alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student
8 successfully meets the state standards for that content area if the
9 student has taken the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of~~
10 ~~student learning))~~ at least once. If the student successfully meets
11 the state standards on the objective alternative assessments then the
12 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement.

13 (4) Beginning ~~((no later than))~~ with the graduating class of
14 ~~((2013))~~ 2014, a student must meet the state standards in science in
15 addition to the other content areas required under subsection (3) of
16 this section on the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of~~
17 ~~student learning))~~ or the objective alternative assessments in order to
18 earn a certificate of academic achievement. ~~((The state board of~~
19 ~~education may adopt a rule that implements the requirements of this~~
20 ~~subsection (4) beginning with a graduating class before the graduating~~
21 ~~class of 2013, if the state board of education adopts the rule by~~
22 ~~September 1st of the freshman school year of the graduating class to~~
23 ~~which the requirements of this subsection (4) apply. The state board~~
24 ~~of education's authority under this subsection (4) does not alter the~~
25 ~~requirement that any change in performance standards for the tenth~~
26 ~~grade assessment must comply with RCW 28A.305.130.))~~

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

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

34 (7) School districts must make available to students the following
35 options:

36 (a) To retake the ~~((Washington))~~ statewide student assessment ~~((of~~
37 ~~student learning))~~ up to four times in the content areas in which the

1 student did not meet the state standards if the student is enrolled in
2 a public school; or

3 (b) To retake the ((Washington)) statewide student assessment ((of
4 ~~student learning~~)) up to four times in the content areas in which the
5 student did not meet the state standards if the student is enrolled in
6 a high school completion program at a community or technical college.
7 The superintendent of public instruction and the state board for
8 community and technical colleges shall jointly identify means by which
9 students in these programs can be assessed.

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

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

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

31 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English, or
32 writing portion of the SAT or the ACT may be used as an objective
33 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
34 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate of
35 academic achievement. The state board of education shall identify the
36 scores students must achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT or ACT
37 to meet or exceed the state standard in the relevant content area on
38 the ((Washington)) statewide student assessment ((of ~~student~~

1 learning)). The state board of education shall identify the first
2 scores by December 1, 2007. After the first scores are established,
3 the state board may increase but not decrease the scores required for
4 students to meet or exceed the state standards.

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

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

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

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

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

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.155.045 and 2007 c 354 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, students served under
4 this chapter, who are not appropriately assessed by the high school
5 Washington assessment system as defined in RCW 28A.655.061, even with
6 accommodations, may earn a certificate of individual achievement. The
7 certificate may be earned using multiple ways to demonstrate skills and
8 abilities commensurate with their individual education programs. The
9 determination of whether the high school assessment system is
10 appropriate shall be made by the student's individual education program
11 team. Except as provided in RCW 28A.655.0611 and section 1 of this
12 act, for these students, the certificate of individual achievement is
13 required for graduation from a public high school, but need not be the
14 only requirement for graduation. When measures other than the high
15 school assessment system as defined in RCW 28A.655.061 are used, the
16 measures shall be in agreement with the appropriate educational
17 opportunity provided for the student as required by this chapter. The
18 superintendent of public instruction shall develop the guidelines for
19 determining which students should not be required to participate in the
20 high school assessment system and which types of assessments are
21 appropriate to use.

22 When measures other than the high school assessment system as
23 defined in RCW 28A.655.061 are used for high school graduation
24 purposes, the student's high school transcript shall note whether that
25 student has earned a certificate of individual achievement.

26 Nothing in this section shall be construed to deny a student the
27 right to participation in the high school assessment system as defined
28 in RCW 28A.655.061, and, upon successfully meeting the high school
29 standard, receipt of the certificate of academic achievement.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, the statewide high school
33 assessment in science shall be an end-of-course assessment for biology
34 that measures the state standards for life sciences, in addition to
35 systems, inquiry, and application as they pertain to life sciences.

36 (2) The superintendent of public instruction may not develop

1 science end-of-course assessments in subjects in addition to biology
2 for purposes of RCW 28A.655.061.

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

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

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