
HOUSE BILL 2831

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2012 1st Special Session

By Representatives Hope, Sells, and McCoy

Read first time 04/09/12. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing additional information, opportunities,
2 and protections for parents and students regarding state and federal
3 assessments of student learning; amending RCW 28A.655.070; and adding
4 a new section to chapter 28A.655 RCW.

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

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

8 (1) School districts must notify parents or guardians of enrolled
9 students each year with the following information about each assessment
10 that is required by the state or by the federal government before the
11 assessment is administered during the school year:

12 (a) The subject areas covered by the assessment;

13 (b) When the assessment will be administered;

14 (c) When the assessment results will be released to parents or
15 guardians;

16 (d) How the assessment or assessment results will advance student
17 learning;

18 (e) The amount of instructional time lost in administering the
19 assessment;

1 (f) The cost to the school district of administering the
2 assessment;

3 (g) The cost to the state of administering the assessment; and

4 (h) Whether the assessment is required by the state, by the federal
5 government, or by both.

6 (2) School districts must also notify parents and guardians of
7 elementary and middle school students of their opportunity to excuse
8 their children from participation in any assessment required by the
9 state or by the federal government.

10 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
11 provide to school districts the information necessary for the district
12 to notify parents of the information under subsection (1)(g) of this
13 section.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.070 and 2008 c 163 s 2 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop
17 essential academic learning requirements that identify the knowledge
18 and skills all public school students need to know and be able to do
19 based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, develop student
20 assessments, and implement the accountability recommendations and
21 requests regarding assistance, rewards, and recognition of the state
22 board of education.

23 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall:

24 (a) Periodically revise the essential academic learning
25 requirements, as needed, based on the student learning goals in RCW
26 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall be considered primary. To the
27 maximum extent possible, the superintendent shall integrate goal four
28 and the knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the essential
29 academic learning requirements; and

30 (b) Review and prioritize the essential academic learning
31 requirements and identify, with clear and concise descriptions, the
32 grade level content expectations to be assessed on the (~~Washington~~
33 ~~assessment of student learning~~) statewide student assessment and used
34 for state or federal accountability purposes. The review,
35 prioritization, and identification shall result in more focus and
36 targeting with an emphasis on depth over breadth in the number of grade
37 level content expectations assessed at each grade level. Grade level

1 content expectations shall be articulated over the grades as a sequence
2 of expectations and performances that are logical, build with
3 increasing depth after foundational knowledge and skills are acquired,
4 and reflect, where appropriate, the sequential nature of the
5 discipline. The office of the superintendent of public instruction,
6 within seven working days, shall post on its web site any grade level
7 content expectations provided to an assessment vendor for use in
8 constructing the ~~((Washington assessment of student learning))~~
9 statewide student assessment.

10 (3)(a) In consultation with the state board of education, the
11 superintendent of public instruction shall maintain and continue to
12 develop and revise a statewide academic assessment system in the
13 content areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science for use in
14 the elementary, middle, and high school years designed to determine if
15 each student has mastered the essential academic learning requirements
16 identified in subsection (1) of this section. School districts shall
17 administer the assessments under guidelines adopted by the
18 superintendent of public instruction. School districts shall provide
19 an opportunity for parents and guardians of elementary and middle
20 school students to excuse their children from participation in any
21 assessment required by the state or by the federal government. School
22 districts, including individual schools and teachers, may not impose
23 any penalties, loss of privileges, or other adverse actions on parents
24 or students as a consequence of excusing a student from participation
25 in a required assessment. The academic assessment system may include
26 a variety of assessment methods, including criterion-referenced and
27 performance-based measures.

28 (b) Effective with the 2009 administration of the ~~((Washington~~
29 ~~assessment of student learning))~~ statewide student assessment, the
30 superintendent shall redesign the assessment in the content areas of
31 reading, mathematics, and science in all grades except high school by
32 shortening test administration and reducing the number of short answer
33 and extended response questions.

34 (4) If the superintendent proposes any modification to the
35 essential academic learning requirements or the statewide assessments,
36 then the superintendent shall, upon request, provide opportunities for
37 the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate

1 to review the assessments and proposed modifications to the essential
2 academic learning requirements before the modifications are adopted.

3 (5) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results
4 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to evaluate
5 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational
6 support for students who have not mastered the essential academic
7 learning requirements at the appropriate periods in the student's
8 educational development.

9 (6) By September 2007, the results for reading and mathematics
10 shall be reported in a format that will allow parents and teachers to
11 determine the academic gain a student has acquired in those content
12 areas from one school year to the next.

13 (7) To assist parents and teachers in their efforts to provide
14 educational support to individual students, the superintendent of
15 public instruction shall provide as much individual student performance
16 information as possible within the constraints of the assessment
17 system's item bank. The superintendent shall also provide to school
18 districts:

19 (a) Information on classroom-based and other assessments that may
20 provide additional achievement information for individual students; and

21 (b) A collection of diagnostic tools that educators may use to
22 evaluate the academic status of individual students. The tools shall
23 be designed to be inexpensive, easily administered, and quickly and
24 easily scored, with results provided in a format that may be easily
25 shared with parents and students.

26 (8) To the maximum extent possible, the superintendent shall
27 integrate knowledge and skill areas in development of the assessments.

28 (9) Assessments for goals three and four of RCW 28A.150.210 shall
29 be integrated in the essential academic learning requirements and
30 assessments for goals one and two.

31 (10) The superintendent shall develop assessments that are directly
32 related to the essential academic learning requirements, and are not
33 biased toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic
34 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender.

35 (11) The superintendent shall consider methods to address the
36 unique needs of special education students when developing the
37 assessments under this section.

1 (12) The superintendent shall consider methods to address the
2 unique needs of highly capable students when developing the assessments
3 under this section.

4 (13) The superintendent shall post on the superintendent's web site
5 lists of resources and model assessments in social studies, the arts,
6 and health and fitness.

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