

---

SENATE BILL 5226

---

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, King, and Shin; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/18/11. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

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

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

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

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

16 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of  
17 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the  
18 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met  
19 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.

1 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW  
2 28A.155.045 or 28A.655.0611, acquisition of the certificate is required  
3 for graduation from a public high school but is not the only  
4 requirement for graduation.

5 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception  
6 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who  
7 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics  
8 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student  
9 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a  
10 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more  
11 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,  
12 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to  
13 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully  
14 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the  
15 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once  
16 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection  
17 (10) of this section, a student may use the objective alternative  
18 assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully meets the  
19 state standards for that content area if the student has taken the  
20 Washington assessment of student learning at least once. If the  
21 student successfully meets the state standards on the objective  
22 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of  
23 academic achievement.

24 (4)(a) Beginning ~~((no later than))~~ with the graduating class of  
25 ~~((2013))~~ 2017, a student must meet the state standards ~~((in science))~~  
26 pertaining to biology in addition to the other content areas required  
27 under subsection (3) of this section on the Washington biology end-of-  
28 course assessment ~~((of student learning))~~ or ~~((the))~~ an objective  
29 alternative assessment~~((s))~~ in order to earn a certificate of academic  
30 achievement. ~~((The state board of education may adopt a rule that~~  
31 ~~implements the requirements of this subsection (4) beginning with a~~  
32 ~~graduating class before the graduating class of 2013, if the state~~  
33 ~~board of education adopts the rule by September 1st of the freshman~~  
34 ~~school year of the graduating class to which the requirements of this~~  
35 ~~subsection (4) apply. The state board of education's authority under~~  
36 ~~this subsection (4) does not alter the requirement that any change in~~  
37 ~~performance standards for the tenth grade assessment must comply with~~  
38 ~~RCW 28A.305.130.))~~

1       (b) Beginning with the graduating class of 2018, a student must  
2 meet the state standards pertaining to either biology or physical  
3 science on the respective Washington end-of-course assessment or an  
4 objective alternative assessment.

5       (c) Beginning with the graduating class of 2019, a student must  
6 meet the state standards pertaining to either biology, physical  
7 science, or integrated science on the respective Washington end-of-  
8 course assessment or an objective alternative assessment in order to  
9 earn a certificate of academic achievement.

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

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

17       (7) School districts must make available to students the following  
18 options:

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

22       (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to  
23 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the  
24 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion  
25 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of  
26 public instruction and the state board for community and technical  
27 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these  
28 programs can be assessed.

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

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

35       (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
36 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative  
37 assessments, which may include an appeals process for students' scores,  
38 for students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic

1 standards. The objective alternative assessments shall be comparable  
2 in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate  
3 on the Washington assessment of student learning and be objective in  
4 its determination of student achievement of the state standards.  
5 Before any objective alternative assessments in addition to those  
6 authorized in RCW 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a  
7 student to demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in  
8 a content area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall  
9 formally approve the use of any objective alternative assessments  
10 through the omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent  
11 resolution.

12 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English, or  
13 writing portion of the SAT or the ACT may be used as an objective  
14 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a  
15 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate of  
16 academic achievement. The state board of education shall identify the  
17 scores students must achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT or ACT  
18 to meet or exceed the state standard in the relevant content area on  
19 the Washington assessment of student learning. The state board of  
20 education shall identify the first scores by December 1, 2007. After  
21 the first scores are established, the state board may increase but not  
22 decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed the state  
23 standards.

24 (ii) Until August 31, 2008, a student's score on the mathematics  
25 portion of the PSAT may be used as an objective alternative assessment  
26 under this section for demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded  
27 the state standard for the certificate of academic achievement. The  
28 state board of education shall identify the score students must achieve  
29 on the mathematics portion of the PSAT to meet or exceed the state  
30 standard in that content area on the Washington assessment of student  
31 learning.

32 (iii) A student who scores at least a three on the grading scale of  
33 one to five for selected AP examinations may use the score as an  
34 objective alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating  
35 that a student has met or exceeded state standards for the certificate  
36 of academic achievement. A score of three on the AP examinations in  
37 calculus or statistics may be used as an alternative assessment for the  
38 mathematics portion of the Washington assessment of student learning.

1 A score of three on the AP examinations in English language and  
2 composition may be used as an alternative assessment for the writing  
3 portion of the Washington assessment of student learning. A score of  
4 three on the AP examinations in English literature and composition,  
5 macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United States history,  
6 world history, United States government and politics, or comparative  
7 government and politics may be used as an alternative assessment for  
8 the reading portion of the Washington assessment of student learning.  
9 A score of three on the AP examinations in biology, chemistry,  
10 environmental science, or physics may be used as an alternative  
11 assessment for the science portion of the Washington assessment of  
12 student learning.

13 ~~(11) ((By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and~~  
14 ~~senate education committees shall obtain information and conclusions~~  
15 ~~from recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the~~  
16 ~~validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of~~  
17 ~~student learning for making individual student high school graduation~~  
18 ~~determinations.~~

19 ~~(12))~~ To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as  
20 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are  
21 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare  
22 plans for and notify students and their parents or legal guardians as  
23 provided in this subsection. Student learning plans are required for  
24 eighth grade students who were not successful on any or all of the  
25 content areas of the state assessment during the previous school year  
26 or who may not be on track to graduate due to credit deficiencies or  
27 absences. The parent or legal guardian shall be notified about the  
28 information in the student learning plan, preferably through a parent  
29 conference and at least annually. To the extent feasible, schools  
30 serving English language learner students and their parents shall  
31 translate the plan into the primary language of the family. The plan  
32 shall include the following information as applicable:

- 33 (a) The student's results on the state assessment;
- 34 (b) If the student is in the transitional bilingual program, the  
35 score on his or her Washington language proficiency test II;
- 36 (c) Any credit deficiencies;
- 37 (d) The student's attendance rates over the previous two years;

1 (e) The student's progress toward meeting state and local  
2 graduation requirements;

3 (f) The courses, competencies, and other steps needed to be taken  
4 by the student to meet state academic standards and stay on track for  
5 graduation;

6 (g) Remediation strategies and alternative education options  
7 available to students, including informing students of the option to  
8 continue to receive instructional services after grade twelve or until  
9 the age of twenty-one;

10 (h) The alternative assessment options available to students under  
11 this section and RCW 28A.655.065;

12 (i) School district programs, high school courses, and career and  
13 technical education options available for students to meet graduation  
14 requirements; and

15 (j) Available programs offered through skill centers or community  
16 and technical colleges, including the college high school diploma  
17 options under RCW 28B.50.535.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655  
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 (1) In consultation with the state board of education, the  
21 superintendent of public instruction shall develop statewide end-of-  
22 course assessments for high school science that measure student  
23 achievement of the state science standards. To the extent possible,  
24 the end-of-course assessments shall be developed in cooperation with  
25 other states.

26 (2)(a) The superintendent shall develop and implement an end-of-  
27 course high school assessment for biology that measures the state  
28 standards for life sciences, in addition to systems, inquiry, and  
29 application as they pertain to life sciences. The assessment shall be  
30 administered beginning in the 2011-12 school year.

31 (b) The superintendent shall develop and implement an end-of-course  
32 high school assessment for physical science that measures the state  
33 standards for physical science, in addition to systems, inquiry, and  
34 application as they pertain to physical science. The assessment shall  
35 be administered beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

36 (c) The superintendent shall develop and implement an end-of-course  
37 high school assessment for integrated science that measures selected

1 state standards for life, physical, and earth and space sciences, in  
2 addition to systems, inquiry, and application in the context of these  
3 sciences. The assessment shall be administered beginning in the 2015-  
4 16 school year.

5 (3) The superintendent shall take steps to ensure that the language  
6 of the assessments is responsive to a diverse student population.

7 (4) The assessments under subsection (2) of this section shall be  
8 used to demonstrate that a student meets the state standards on the  
9 science content area of the high school Washington assessment of  
10 student learning for purposes of RCW 28A.655.061.

--- END ---