
SENATE BILL 5366

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Rolfes, Hobbs, McAuliffe, Chase, Frockt, and Shin

Read first time 01/28/13. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring the office of the superintendent of
2 public instruction to assist school districts in disclosing information
3 about required assessments; adding a new section to chapter 28A.655
4 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that parents are
7 better able to help their children succeed in the K-12 school system
8 when fully informed about the policies and requirements that impact
9 their children's learning. In the area of testing, frequent changes,
10 increased numbers of tests, as well as increased high stakes
11 consequences affecting graduation and course taking schedules, have
12 created a complexity that most parents are not able to navigate. The
13 office of the superintendent of public instruction has revealed that in
14 each of the next eight years there will be a new test or new standard
15 introduced that will affect test taking, including a new battery of
16 common core standard assessments. It is, therefore, the intent of the
17 legislature to assure that all parents of children within the
18 Washington state public school system, kindergarten through twelfth
19 grade, are provided timely, complete, clear, and easy to understand

1 information regarding state and federal standardized tests that their
2 children will be required to take and the consequences, rules, and
3 policies that accompany them.

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

6 (1) At the beginning of each school year, school districts must
7 notify parents or guardians of enrolled students with the following
8 information about each standardized assessment from kindergarten
9 through twelfth grade that is required by the state or by the federal
10 government:

11 (a) The subject areas covered by each assessment and what will be
12 measured by each;

13 (b) When each standardized assessment will be administered;

14 (c) Whether each standardized test has been screened for bias;

15 (d) The time expected to take each standardized assessment;

16 (e) Whether students will be required to take standardized
17 assessments online, or have the option of paper and pencil;

18 (f) Which assessments will be required for graduation and what
19 options students have to meet graduation requirements if they do not
20 pass a given assessment;

21 (g) How assessment results affect a student's high school and
22 beyond plan and course-taking progression leading to timely graduation,
23 as well as whether results of standardized assessments will be used for
24 program placement or grade level advancement;

25 (h) When the assessment results will be released to parents or
26 guardians and whether there will be an opportunity for parents and
27 teachers to discuss strategic instructional adjustments;

28 (i) The process, forms, and time necessary to access individual
29 students' tests;

30 (j) How the assessment and assessment results will advance student
31 learning;

32 (k) The amount of instructional time spent in administering the
33 assessment;

34 (l) The financial cost to both the school district and state of
35 administering the assessment; and

36 (m) Whether the assessment is required by the state, by the federal
37 government, or by both.

1 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
2 provide to school districts regularly updated information necessary for
3 the district to notify parents of the information under subsection (1)
4 of this section, including any changes occurring through legislative or
5 federal action, or both, that will affect current or future
6 assessments.

7 (3) Costs associated with this section must be provided from
8 funding allocated to the office of the superintendent of public
9 instruction for student assessments.

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