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SENATE BILL 5639

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Conway and Zeiger

Read first time 02/01/17. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to alternative student 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 2015 3rd sp.s. c 42 s 2 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not  
7 be limited to the statewide student assessment, opportunities for a  
8 student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which the  
9 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 statewide student  
15 assessment for each content area.

16 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of  
17 academic achievement shall be obtained and is evidence that the  
18 students have successfully met the state standard in the content  
19 areas included in the certificate. With the exception of students  
20 satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045 or 28A.655.0611,

1 acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation from a  
2 public high school but is not the only requirement for graduation.

3 (3)(a) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008 through the  
4 graduating class of 2015, with the exception of students satisfying  
5 the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who meets the state  
6 standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics high school  
7 statewide student assessment shall earn a certificate of academic  
8 achievement. The mathematics assessment shall be the end-of-course  
9 assessment for the first year of high school mathematics that  
10 assesses the standards common to algebra I and integrated mathematics  
11 I or the end-of-course assessment for the second year of high school  
12 mathematics that assesses standards common to geometry and integrated  
13 mathematics II.

14 (b) As the state transitions from reading and writing assessments  
15 to an English language arts assessment and from end-of-course  
16 assessments to a comprehensive assessment for high school  
17 mathematics, a student in a graduating class of 2016 through 2018  
18 shall earn a certificate of academic achievement if the student meets  
19 the state standard as follows:

20 (i) Students in the graduating class of 2016 may use the results  
21 from:

22 (A) The reading and writing assessment or the English language  
23 arts assessment developed with the multistate consortium; and

24 (B) The end-of-course assessment for the first year of high  
25 school mathematics, the end-of-course assessment for the second year  
26 of high school mathematics, or the comprehensive mathematics  
27 assessment developed with the multistate consortium.

28 (ii) Students in the graduating classes of 2017 and 2018 may use  
29 the results from:

30 (A) The tenth grade English language arts assessment developed by  
31 the superintendent of public instruction using resources from the  
32 multistate consortium or the English language arts assessment  
33 developed with the multistate consortium; and

34 (B) The end-of-course assessment for the first year of high  
35 school mathematics, the end-of-course assessment for the second year  
36 of high school mathematics, or the comprehensive mathematics  
37 assessment developed with the multistate consortium.

38 (c) Beginning with the graduating class of 2019, a student who  
39 meets the state standards on the high school English language arts  
40 assessment developed with the multistate consortium and the

1 comprehensive mathematics assessment developed with the multistate  
2 consortium shall earn a certificate of academic achievement.

3 (d) If a student does not successfully meet the state standards  
4 in one or more content areas required for the certificate of academic  
5 achievement, then the student may retake the assessment in the  
6 content area at least twice a year at no cost to the student. If the  
7 student successfully meets the state standards on a retake of the  
8 assessment, then the student shall earn a certificate of academic  
9 achievement. Once objective alternative assessments are authorized  
10 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, a student may use the  
11 objective alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student  
12 successfully meets the state standards for that content area if the  
13 student has taken the statewide student assessment at least once;  
14 except students who meet the requirements under section 2 of this act  
15 may use an objective alternative assessment without taking the  
16 statewide student assessment at least once. If the student  
17 successfully meets the state standards on the objective alternative  
18 assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of academic  
19 achievement.

20 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of 2017, a student must  
21 meet the state standards in science in addition to the other content  
22 areas required under subsection (3) of this section on the statewide  
23 student assessment, a retake, or the objective alternative  
24 assessments in order to earn a certificate of academic achievement.

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

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

32 (7) School districts must make available to students the  
33 following options:

34 (a) To retake the statewide student assessment at least twice a  
35 year in the content areas in which the student did not meet the state  
36 standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

37 (b) To retake the statewide student assessment at least twice a  
38 year in the content areas in which the student did not meet the state  
39 standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion  
40 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of

1 public instruction and the state board for community and technical  
2 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these  
3 programs can be assessed.

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

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

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

25 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English,  
26 or writing portion of the SAT or the ACT may be used as an objective  
27 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a  
28 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate  
29 of academic achievement. The state board of education shall identify  
30 the scores students must achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT  
31 or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard in the relevant content  
32 area on the statewide student assessment. A student's score on the  
33 science portion of the ACT or the science subject area tests of the  
34 SAT may be used as an objective alternative assessment under this  
35 section as soon as the state board of education determines that  
36 sufficient data is available to identify reliable equivalent scores  
37 for the science content area of the statewide student assessment.  
38 After the first scores are established, the state board may increase  
39 but not decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed  
40 the state standards.

1 (ii) A student who scores at least a three on the grading scale  
2 of one to five for selected AP examinations may use the score as an  
3 objective alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating  
4 that a student has met or exceeded state standards for the  
5 certificate of academic achievement. A score of three on the AP  
6 examinations in calculus or statistics may be used as an alternative  
7 assessment for the mathematics portion of the statewide student  
8 assessment. A score of three on the AP examinations in English  
9 language and composition may be used as an alternative assessment for  
10 the writing portion of the statewide student assessment; and for the  
11 English language arts portion of the assessment developed with the  
12 multistate consortium, once established in the 2014-15 school year. A  
13 score of three on the AP examinations in English literature and  
14 composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United  
15 States history, world history, United States government and politics,  
16 or comparative government and politics may be used as an alternative  
17 assessment for the reading portion of the statewide student  
18 assessment; and for the English language arts portion of the  
19 assessment developed with the multistate consortium, once established  
20 in the 2014-15 school year. A score of three on the AP examination in  
21 biology, physics, chemistry, or environmental science may be used as  
22 an alternative assessment for the science portion of the statewide  
23 student assessment.

24 (iii) A student who scores at least a four on selected externally  
25 administered international baccalaureate (IB) examinations may use  
26 the score as an objective alternative assessment under this section  
27 for demonstrating that the student has met or exceeded state  
28 standards for the certificate of academic achievement. A score of  
29 four on the higher level IB examinations for any of the IB English  
30 language and literature courses or for any of the IB individuals and  
31 societies courses may be used as an alternative assessment for the  
32 reading, writing, or English language arts portions of the statewide  
33 student assessment. A score of four on the higher level IB  
34 examinations for any of the IB mathematics courses may be used as an  
35 alternative assessment for the mathematics portion of the statewide  
36 student assessment. A score of four on the higher level IB  
37 examinations for IB biology, chemistry, or physics may be used as an  
38 alternative assessment for the science portion of the statewide  
39 student assessment.

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

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

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

1 Students who meet the following requirements may use an  
2 alternative assessment without taking the statewide student  
3 assessment at least once:

4 (1) Students who are enrolled in a school district with which a  
5 technical college has a signed interlocal agreement on file with the  
6 superintendent of public instruction;

7 (2) Students who were under twenty-one years of age at the  
8 beginning of the school year;

9 (3) Students who are enrolled tuition-free;

10 (4) Students who are enrolled in the school district for the  
11 purpose of earning a high school diploma or certificate; and

12 (5) Students who have actually participated in instructional  
13 activity at the technical college during the current school year.

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