

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5008

---

---

As of January 23, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to supporting the use of assessment, diagnostic, and learning tools in public schools.

**Brief Description:** Supporting the use of assessment, diagnostic, and learning tools in public schools.

**Sponsors:** Senators Braun, Wellman, Dozier, Harris, King, Nobles, Riccelli, Wagoner, Warnick and Wilson, J..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/23/25.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a temporary grant program to support the use of assessment, diagnostic, and learning tools for K-12 students in math and English language arts, subject to appropriations.

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Staff:** Elena Becker (786-7493)

**Background:** State law directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to provide school districts with a collection of diagnostic assessments that may be used to evaluate the academic status of individual students. These tools must be inexpensive, easily administered, quickly and easily scored, and present results in an easily shareable format.

**Summary of Bill:** OSPI is directed to establish a temporary grant program to support the use of assessment, diagnostic, and learning tools for K-12 students in math and English

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

language arts, subject to appropriations. OSPI must award grants based on need, ensure that grant recipients vary by geographic location and size, and report on the outcomes of the grant program by November 1st of each year.

The grants are intended to help support public schools and school districts purchase or maintain access to a digital platform with tools that will identify students' individual needs and monitor student progress. This platform must have a criterion-referenced component.

Applicants for the grants must describe their plan for the funding and how they will provide professional development, so staff can effectively use these tools. School districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools may apply for these grants.

OSPI must report on the outcomes of the grant program, including specific metrics, each year that grants are awarded.

The grant program expires on December 31, 2028.

**Appropriation:** The bill contains a section or sections to limit implementation to the availability of amounts appropriated for that specific purpose.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: These types of assessment platforms give teachers a quick and easy tool to test students at the beginning of the term, shape the learning plan accordingly, test in the middle of the term and adjust if needed, and test at the end. These programs provide immediate results so the teacher, student, and sometimes parents have real-time information about where students stand.

Many school districts have had success using these sorts of tools, but many other schools and districts can't afford them. The need is particularly acute for small schools, and this grant program would address this need. This is a simple plan to give teachers better tools to be successful.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator John Braun, Prime Sponsor.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.