
SENATE BILL 5947

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Zarelli, Stevens and Schow

Read first time 02/21/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the commission on student learning; reenacting
2 and amending RCW 28A.630.885 and 28A.630.885; and providing expiration
3 dates.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.630.885 and 1995 c 209 s 1 are each reenacted and
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby
8 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify
9 the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be
10 able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to
11 develop student assessment and school accountability systems, and to
12 take other steps necessary to develop a performance-based education
13 system. The commission shall include three members of the state board
14 of education(~~(, three members appointed by the governor before July 1,~~
15 ~~1992, and five members appointed no later than June 1, 1993, by the~~
16 ~~governor elected in the November 1992 election. The governor shall~~
17 ~~appoint a chair from the commission members, and fill any vacancies in~~
18 ~~gubernatorial appointments that may occur)); four members of the house
19 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of~~

1 representatives, three from the majority party and one from the
2 minority party; and four members of the senate, appointed by the
3 president of the senate, three from the majority party and one from the
4 minority party. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the
5 original appointment was made and shall be from the same political
6 party as the person vacating the position. The state board of
7 education shall fill any vacancies of state board of education
8 appointments that may occur. ((In making the appointments, educators,
9 business leaders, and parents shall be represented, and nominations
10 from state wide education, business, and parent organizations shall be
11 requested. Efforts shall be made to ensure that the commission
12 reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the state's K-12 student
13 population and that the major geographic regions in the state are
14 represented. Appointees shall be qualified individuals who are
15 supportive of educational restructuring, who have a positive record of
16 service, and who will devote sufficient time to the responsibilities of
17 the commission to ensure that the objectives of the commission are
18 achieved.))

19 (2) The commission shall establish advisory committees. Membership
20 of the advisory committees shall include, but not necessarily be
21 limited to, professionals from the office of the superintendent of
22 public instruction and the state board of education, and other state
23 and local educational practitioners and student assessment specialists.

24 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,
25 shall:

26 (a) Develop essential academic learning requirements based on the
27 student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Essential academic learning
28 requirements shall be developed, to the extent possible, for each of
29 the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall
30 be considered primary. Essential academic learning requirements for
31 RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the mathematics component of RCW
32 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be completed no later than March 1,
33 1995. Essential academic learning requirements that incorporate the
34 remainder of RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two, three, and
35 four, shall be completed no later than March 1, 1996. To the maximum
36 extent possible, the commission shall integrate goal four and the
37 knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the development of the
38 essential academic learning requirements;

1 (b)(i) The commission shall present to the state board of education
2 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic
3 assessment system for use in the elementary, middle, and high school
4 years designed to determine if each student has mastered the essential
5 academic learning requirements identified in (a) of this subsection.
6 The academic assessment system shall ~~((include a variety of assessment
7 methods, including performance based measures that are criterion-
8 referenced. Performance standards for determining if a student has
9 successfully completed an assessment shall be initially determined by
10 the commission in consultation with the advisory committees required in
11 subsection (2) of this section))~~ be norm-referenced and machine-
12 scorable. Scores shall be published by school districts on a building-
13 level basis to parents and the community.

14 (ii) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results
15 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to evaluate
16 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational
17 support for students who have not mastered the essential academic
18 learning requirements at the appropriate periods in the student's
19 educational development.

20 (iii) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
21 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the
22 mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be
23 initially implemented by the state board of education and
24 superintendent of public instruction no later than the 1996-97 school
25 year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent
26 implementation of the assessment system and essential academic learning
27 requirements. Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
28 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals
29 two, three, and four, shall be initially implemented by the state board
30 of education and superintendent of public instruction no later than the
31 1998-99 school year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or
32 prevent implementation of the assessment system and essential academic
33 learning requirements. To the maximum extent possible, the commission
34 shall integrate knowledge and skill areas in development of the
35 assessments.

36 (iv) Before the 2000-2001 school year, participation by school
37 districts in the assessment system shall be optional. School districts
38 that desire to participate before the 2000-2001 school year shall
39 notify the superintendent of public instruction in a manner determined

1 by the superintendent. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year, all
2 school districts shall be required to participate in the assessment
3 system.

4 (v) The state board of education and superintendent of public
5 instruction may modify the essential academic learning requirements and
6 academic assessment system, as needed, in subsequent school years.

7 (vi) The commission shall develop assessments that are directly
8 related to the essential academic learning requirements, and are not
9 biased toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic
10 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender;

11 (c) After a determination is made by the state board of education
12 that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it
13 is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high
14 school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The
15 certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most students at about the
16 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student has successfully
17 mastered the essential academic learning requirements during his or her
18 educational career. The certificate of mastery shall be required for
19 graduation but shall not be the only requirement for graduation. The
20 commission shall make recommendations to the state board of education
21 regarding the relationship between the certificate of mastery and high
22 school graduation requirements. Upon achieving the certificate of
23 mastery, schools shall provide students with the opportunity to
24 continue to pursue career and educational objectives through
25 educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and
26 vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not
27 limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work
28 transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,
29 and preparation for technical college, community college, or university
30 education;

31 (d) Consider methods to address the unique needs of special
32 education students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of
33 this subsection;

34 (e) Consider methods to address the unique needs of highly capable
35 students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of this
36 subsection;

37 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,
38 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts
39 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.

1 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,
2 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost
3 of implementing the academic assessment system;

4 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher
5 education coordinating board for adopting college and university
6 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent
7 with the essential academic learning requirements and the certificate
8 of mastery;

9 (h) By June 30, 1999, recommend to the legislature, governor, state
10 board of education, and superintendent of public instruction:

11 (i) A state-wide accountability system to monitor and evaluate
12 accurately and fairly the level of learning occurring in individual
13 schools and school districts. The accountability system shall be
14 designed to recognize the characteristics of the student population of
15 schools and school districts such as gender, race, ethnicity,
16 socioeconomic status, and other factors. The system shall include
17 school-site, school district, and state-level accountability reports;

18 (ii) A school assistance program to help schools and school
19 districts that are having difficulty helping students meet the
20 essential academic learning requirements;

21 (iii) A system to intervene in schools and school districts in
22 which significant numbers of students persistently fail to learn the
23 essential academic learning requirements; and

24 (iv) An awards program to provide incentives to school staff to
25 help their students learn the essential academic learning requirements,
26 with each school being assessed individually against its own baseline.
27 Incentives shall be based on the rate of percentage change of students
28 achieving the essential academic learning requirements. School staff
29 shall determine how the awards will be spent.

30 It is the intent of the legislature to begin implementation of
31 programs in this subsection (3)(h) on September 1, 2000;

32 (i) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the
33 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board
34 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the
35 commission; and

36 (j) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions
37 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning
38 goals.

1 (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the state
2 board of education and the office of the superintendent of public
3 instruction.

4 (5) The commission shall seek advice broadly from the public and
5 all interested educational organizations in the conduct of its work,
6 including holding periodic regional public hearings.

7 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support
8 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
9 provide administrative oversight and be the fiscal agent for the
10 commission. The commission may direct the office of the superintendent
11 of public instruction to enter into subcontracts, within the
12 commission's resources, with school districts, teachers, higher
13 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other
14 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its
15 deliberations.

16 (7) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for travel
17 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.630.885 and 1995 c 335 s 505 are each reenacted
19 and amended to read as follows:

20 (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby
21 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify
22 the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be
23 able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to
24 develop student assessment and school accountability systems, to review
25 current school district data reporting requirements and make
26 recommendations on what data is necessary for the purposes of
27 accountability and meeting state information needs, and to take other
28 steps necessary to develop a performance-based education system. The
29 commission shall include three members of the state board of
30 education(~~(, three members appointed by the governor before July 1,~~
31 ~~1992, and five members appointed no later than June 1, 1993, by the~~
32 ~~governor elected in the November 1992 election. The governor shall~~
33 ~~appoint a chair from the commission members, and fill any vacancies in~~
34 ~~gubernatorial appointments that may occur)); four members of the house
35 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
36 representatives, three from the majority party and one from the
37 minority party; and four members of the senate, appointed by the
38 president of the senate, three from the majority party and one from the~~

1 minority party. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the
2 original appointment was made and shall be from the same political
3 party as the person vacating the position. The state board of
4 education shall fill any vacancies of state board of education
5 appointments that may occur. ~~((In making the appointments, educators,~~
6 ~~business leaders, and parents shall be represented, and nominations~~
7 ~~from state-wide education, business, and parent organizations shall be~~
8 ~~requested.— Efforts shall be made to ensure that the commission~~
9 ~~reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the state's K-12 student~~
10 ~~population and that the major geographic regions in the state are~~
11 ~~represented.— Appointees shall be qualified individuals who are~~
12 ~~supportive of educational restructuring, who have a positive record of~~
13 ~~service, and who will devote sufficient time to the responsibilities of~~
14 ~~the commission to ensure that the objectives of the commission are~~
15 ~~achieved.))~~

16 (2) The commission shall establish advisory committees. Membership
17 of the advisory committees shall include, but not necessarily be
18 limited to, professionals from the office of the superintendent of
19 public instruction and the state board of education, and other state
20 and local educational practitioners and student assessment specialists.

21 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,
22 shall:

23 (a) Develop essential academic learning requirements based on the
24 student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Essential academic learning
25 requirements shall be developed, to the extent possible, for each of
26 the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall
27 be considered primary. Essential academic learning requirements for
28 RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the mathematics component of RCW
29 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be completed no later than March 1,
30 1995. Essential academic learning requirements that incorporate the
31 remainder of RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two, three, and
32 four, shall be completed no later than March 1, 1996. To the maximum
33 extent possible, the commission shall integrate goal four and the
34 knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the development of the
35 essential academic learning requirements;

36 (b)(i) The commission shall present to the state board of education
37 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic
38 assessment system for use in the elementary, middle, and high school
39 years designed to determine if each student has mastered the essential

1 academic learning requirements identified in (a) of this subsection.
2 The academic assessment system shall (~~include a variety of assessment~~
3 ~~methods, including performance based measures that are criterion-~~
4 ~~referenced. Performance standards for determining if a student has~~
5 ~~successfully completed an assessment shall be initially determined by~~
6 ~~the commission in consultation with the advisory committees required in~~
7 ~~subsection (2) of this section)) be norm-referenced and machine-
8 scorable. Scores shall be published by school districts on a building-
9 level basis to parents and the community.~~

10 (ii) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results
11 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to evaluate
12 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational
13 support for students who have not mastered the essential academic
14 learning requirements at the appropriate periods in the student's
15 educational development.

16 (iii) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
17 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the
18 mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be
19 initially implemented by the state board of education and
20 superintendent of public instruction no later than the 1996-97 school
21 year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent
22 implementation of the assessment system and essential academic learning
23 requirements. Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
24 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals
25 two, three, and four, shall be initially implemented by the state board
26 of education and superintendent of public instruction no later than the
27 1997-98 school year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or
28 prevent implementation of the assessment system and essential academic
29 learning requirements. To the maximum extent possible, the commission
30 shall integrate knowledge and skill areas in development of the
31 assessments.

32 (iv) Before the 2000-2001 school year, participation by school
33 districts in the assessment system shall be optional. School districts
34 that desire to participate before the 2000-2001 school year shall
35 notify the superintendent of public instruction in a manner determined
36 by the superintendent. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year, all
37 school districts shall be required to participate in the assessment
38 system.

1 (v) The state board of education and superintendent of public
2 instruction may modify the essential academic learning requirements and
3 academic assessment system, as needed, in subsequent school years.

4 (vi) The commission shall develop assessments that are directly
5 related to the essential academic learning requirements, and are not
6 biased toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic
7 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender;

8 (c) After a determination is made by the state board of education
9 that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it
10 is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high
11 school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The
12 certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most students at about the
13 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student has successfully
14 mastered the essential academic learning requirements during his or her
15 educational career. The certificate of mastery shall be required for
16 graduation but shall not be the only requirement for graduation. The
17 commission shall make recommendations to the state board of education
18 regarding the relationship between the certificate of mastery and high
19 school graduation requirements. Upon achieving the certificate of
20 mastery, schools shall provide students with the opportunity to
21 continue to pursue career and educational objectives through
22 educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and
23 vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not
24 limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work
25 transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,
26 and preparation for technical college, community college, or university
27 education;

28 (d) Consider methods to address the unique needs of special
29 education students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of
30 this subsection;

31 (e) Consider methods to address the unique needs of highly capable
32 students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of this
33 subsection;

34 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,
35 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts
36 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.
37 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,
38 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost
39 of implementing the academic assessment system;

1 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher
2 education coordinating board for adopting college and university
3 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent
4 with the essential academic learning requirements and the certificate
5 of mastery;

6 (h) Review current school district data reporting requirements for
7 the purposes of accountability and meeting state information needs.
8 The commission on student learning shall report recommendations to the
9 joint select committee on education restructuring by September 15,
10 1996, on:

11 (i) What data is necessary to compare how school districts are
12 performing before the essential academic learning requirements and the
13 assessment system are implemented with how school districts are
14 performing after the essential academic learning requirements and the
15 assessment system are implemented; and

16 (ii) What data is necessary pertaining to school district reports
17 under the accountability systems developed by the commission on student
18 learning under this section;

19 (i) By December 1, 1998, recommend to the legislature, governor,
20 state board of education, and superintendent of public instruction:

21 (i) A state-wide accountability system to monitor and evaluate
22 accurately and fairly the level of learning occurring in individual
23 schools and school districts. The accountability system shall be
24 designed to recognize the characteristics of the student population of
25 schools and school districts such as gender, race, ethnicity,
26 socioeconomic status, and other factors. The system shall include
27 school-site, school district, and state-level accountability reports;

28 (ii) A school assistance program to help schools and school
29 districts that are having difficulty helping students meet the
30 essential academic learning requirements;

31 (iii) A system to intervene in schools and school districts in
32 which significant numbers of students persistently fail to learn the
33 essential academic learning requirements; and

34 (iv) An awards program to provide incentives to school staff to
35 help their students learn the essential academic learning requirements,
36 with each school being assessed individually against its own baseline.
37 Incentives shall be based on the rate of percentage change of students
38 achieving the essential academic learning requirements. School staff
39 shall determine how the awards will be spent.

1 It is the intent of the legislature to begin implementation of
2 programs in this subsection (3)(i) on September 1, 2000;

3 (j) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the
4 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board
5 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the
6 commission; and

7 (k) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions
8 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning
9 goals.

10 (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the state
11 board of education and the office of the superintendent of public
12 instruction.

13 (5) The commission shall seek advice broadly from the public and
14 all interested educational organizations in the conduct of its work,
15 including holding periodic regional public hearings.

16 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support
17 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
18 provide administrative oversight and be the fiscal agent for the
19 commission. The commission may direct the office of the superintendent
20 of public instruction to enter into subcontracts, within the
21 commission's resources, with school districts, teachers, higher
22 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other
23 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its
24 deliberations.

25 (7) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for travel
26 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act expires June 30, 1999.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act expires September 1,
29 1998.

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