
HOUSE BILL 2316

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, Santos, Hasegawa, Sells, McCoy, Appleton, Williams, Ormsby and Kenney

Read first time 02/20/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing temporary graduation provisions for
2 students who do not meet standards on the high school assessments;
3 amending RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.155.045; and adding a new section to
4 chapter 28A.655 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2006 c 115 s 4 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

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

18 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
19 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the

1 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
2 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
3 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
4 28A.155.045 or section 3 of this act, acquisition of the certificate is
5 required for graduation from a public high school but is not the only
6 requirement for graduation.

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

26 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, a student must
27 meet the state standards in science in addition to the other content
28 areas required under subsection (3) of this section on the Washington
29 assessment of student learning or the objective alternative assessments
30 in order to earn a certificate of academic achievement.

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

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

1 (7) (~~Beginning in 2006,~~) School districts must make available to
2 students the following options:

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

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

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

17 (9) (~~Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall pilot~~
18 ~~opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning in the~~
19 ~~2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,~~)
20 Opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be
21 available to each school district.

22 (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
23 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative
24 assessments, which may include an appeals process, for students to
25 demonstrate achievement of the state academic standards. The objective
26 alternative assessments shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
27 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
28 assessment of student learning and be objective in its determination of
29 student achievement of the state standards. Before any objective
30 alternative assessments in addition to those authorized in RCW
31 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a student to
32 demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in a content
33 area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall formally
34 approve the use of any objective alternative assessments through the
35 omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

36 (b) A student's score on the mathematics portion of the preliminary
37 scholastic assessment test (PSAT), the scholastic assessment test
38 (SAT), or the American college test (ACT) may be used as an objective

1 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
2 student has met or exceeded the mathematics standards for the
3 certificate of academic achievement. The state board of education
4 shall identify the scores students must achieve on the mathematics
5 portion of the PSAT, SAT, or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard
6 for mathematics. The state board of education shall identify the first
7 scores by December 1, 2006, and thereafter may increase but not
8 decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed the state
9 standard for mathematics.

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

16 (12) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
17 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are
18 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare
19 plans for students as provided in this subsection (12).

20 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth
21 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content
22 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the
23 previous school year. The plan shall include the courses,
24 competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet
25 state academic standards and stay on track for graduation. ((This
26 requirement shall be phased in as follows:

27 ~~(i) Beginning no later than the 2004-05 school year ninth grade~~
28 ~~students as described in this subsection (12)(a) shall have a plan.~~

29 ~~(ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every year~~
30 ~~thereafter eighth grade students as described in this subsection~~
31 ~~(12)(a) shall have a plan.~~

32 ~~(iii))~~ (i) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably
33 through a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
34 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
35 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
36 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's
37 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

1 ~~((iv))~~ (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported
2 to the student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments
3 to the plan made as necessary.

4 ~~((Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year~~
5 ~~thereafter,))~~ All fifth grade students who were not successful in one
6 or more of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment
7 of student learning shall have a student learning plan.

8 (i) The parent or guardian of ~~((a))~~ the student ~~((described in this~~
9 ~~subsection (12)(b))~~) shall be notified, preferably through a parent
10 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of
11 student learning, actions the school intends to take to improve the
12 student's skills in any content area in which the student was
13 unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their
14 student's skills.

15 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
16 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the
17 plan made as necessary.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.155.045 and 2004 c 19 s 104 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, students served under
21 this chapter, who are not appropriately assessed by the high school
22 Washington assessment system as defined in RCW 28A.655.061, even with
23 accommodations, may earn a certificate of individual achievement. The
24 certificate may be earned using multiple ways to demonstrate skills and
25 abilities commensurate with their individual education programs. The
26 determination of whether the high school assessment system is
27 appropriate shall be made by the student's individual education program
28 team. Except as provided in section 3 of this act, for these students,
29 the certificate of individual achievement is required for graduation
30 from a public high school, but need not be the only requirement for
31 graduation. When measures other than the high school assessment system
32 as defined in RCW 28A.655.061 are used, the measures shall be in
33 agreement with the appropriate educational opportunity provided for the
34 student as required by this chapter. The superintendent of public
35 instruction shall develop the guidelines for determining which students
36 should not be required to participate in the high school assessment
37 system and which types of assessments are appropriate to use.

1 When measures other than the high school assessment system as
2 defined in RCW 28A.655.061 are used for high school graduation
3 purposes, the student's high school transcript shall note whether that
4 student has earned a certificate of individual achievement.

5 Nothing in this section shall be construed to deny a student the
6 right to participation in the high school assessment system as defined
7 in RCW 28A.655.061, and, upon successfully meeting the high school
8 standard, receipt of the certificate of academic achievement.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) Limited English proficient students in the graduating classes
12 of 2008, 2009, and 2010 who meet the criteria under subsection (2) of
13 this section may graduate from high school without earning a
14 certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual
15 achievement if they:

16 (a) Have met all other state and school district graduation
17 requirements; and

18 (b) For the graduating class of 2008, successfully earn one
19 additional high school credit after their eleventh grade year intended
20 to increase their English language skills and, as necessary to measure
21 progress in English language proficiency, continue taking the
22 Washington language proficiency assessment; and

23 (c) For the graduating classes of 2009 and 2010, successfully earn
24 two additional high school credits after their tenth grade year
25 intended to increase their English language skills and, as necessary to
26 measure progress in English language proficiency, continue taking the
27 Washington language proficiency assessment.

28 (2) The provisions of this section apply only to limited English
29 proficient students who:

30 (a) Enrolled in a United States school for the first time in the
31 fall of their ninth grade year or later; and

32 (b) Qualified for the state transitional bilingual program as a
33 result of their scores on the Washington language proficiency
34 assessment for at least one year of their enrollment in high school.

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