
Education Committee

HB 1015

Brief Description: Reducing costs by reducing state assessment requirements.

Sponsors: Representatives McCoy, Santos, Hunt, Appleton, Moscoso, Klippert, Ryu, Sells, Stanford, Haigh, Tharinger, Kirby, Ormsby and Pollet.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes requirements for the state assessment system to include an assessment of writing.
- Makes the assessment of high school mathematics based on one end-of-course assessment rather than two.
- Removes authority for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop high school science assessments in subjects other than Biology.
- Removes passing the state high school assessments as a graduation requirement and repeals all references to the Certificate of Academic Achievement and Certificate of Individual Achievement.

Hearing Date: 1/29/13

Staff: Barbara McLain (786-7383).

Background:

Federal Assessment Requirements. The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires states to assess student progress in reading and mathematics in each of grades three through eight and at least one high school grade. States must also assess students in science in at least one elementary, middle, and high school grade. The federal law does not require states to use the results of high school assessments for purposes of graduation.

Washington Assessment Requirements. In addition to the federally-required assessments, students in Washington take a writing assessment in grades four, seven, and 10. Effective in

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2011 the high school mathematics assessment was redesigned as two end-of-course tests (EOCs), one in Algebra I/Integrated I and one in Geometry/Integrated II.

Legislation enacted in 2011 authorized one science EOC in Biology, but left open the possibility that the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) may develop EOCs in additional science subjects in the future.

Washington Graduation Requirements. Since the class of 2008, students have been required to meet the state standard on the high school assessment in reading, writing, and mathematics to receive a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA). Students in special education who are not appropriately assessed using the state assessment can earn a Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA).

The CAA or CIA were to be required for high school graduation starting with the class of 2008, but the 2007 Legislature enacted a temporary exception through 2013 for students who do not meet the state standard in mathematics.

The classes of 2013 and 2014 must meet the state standard on at least one of the math EOCs, and the class of 2015 must meet the standard on both math EOCs to earn a CAA or CIA. Also starting with the class of 2015, students will have to meet the state standard on the Biology EOC for graduation.

Students have multiple opportunities to retake the high school assessments. The Legislature has also authorized several objective alternative assessments for students who are unsuccessful on the high school assessment after at least one attempt.

Summary of Bill:

Washington Assessment Requirements. The requirement for the state assessment system to include an assessment of writing in elementary, middle, and high school grade levels is removed. Other references to a state writing assessment are removed.

High school mathematics is assessed using one EOC in Algebra I/Integrated I. The SPI is no longer authorized to develop additional high school science assessments in subjects other than Biology.

Washington Graduation Requirements. The requirement that, in order to graduate, students must earn a CAA by meeting the state standard on the high school assessment in reading, writing, mathematics, and science is repealed. Students in special education no longer have to earn a CIA. Laws are repealed pertaining to retaking the high school assessment; creating objective alternative assessments; and requiring students who do not pass the high school assessment in mathematics to take additional mathematics courses until 2013. All references to the CAA and CIA are eliminated.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.