
SENATE BILL 5587

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Senators Hochstatter, Zarelli, Stevens and Johnson

Read first time 01/31/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the certificate of mastery; reenacting and
2 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. The state board of
19 education shall fill any vacancies of state board of education

1 appointments that may occur. In making the appointments, educators,
2 business leaders, and parents shall be represented, and nominations
3 from state-wide education, business, and parent organizations shall be
4 requested. Efforts shall be made to ensure that the commission
5 reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the state's K-12 student
6 population and that the major geographic regions in the state are
7 represented. Appointees shall be qualified individuals who are
8 supportive of educational restructuring, who have a positive record of
9 service, and who will devote sufficient time to the responsibilities of
10 the commission to ensure that the objectives of the commission are
11 achieved.

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

17 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,
18 shall:

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

32 (b)(i) The commission shall present to the state board of education
33 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic
34 assessment system for use in the elementary, middle, and high school
35 years designed to determine if each student has mastered the essential
36 academic learning requirements identified in (a) of this subsection.
37 The academic assessment system shall include a variety of assessment
38 methods, including performance-based measures that are criterion-
39 referenced. Performance standards for determining if a student has

1 successfully completed an assessment shall be initially determined by
2 the commission in consultation with the advisory committees required in
3 subsection (2) of this section.

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

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

26 (iv) Before the 2000-2001 school year, participation by school
27 districts in the assessment system shall be optional. School districts
28 that desire to participate before the 2000-2001 school year shall
29 notify the superintendent of public instruction in a manner determined
30 by the superintendent. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year, all
31 school districts shall be required to participate in the assessment
32 system.

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

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

1 (c) (~~After a determination is made by the state board of education~~
2 ~~that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it~~
3 ~~is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high~~
4 ~~school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The~~
5 ~~certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most students at about the~~
6 ~~age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student has successfully~~
7 ~~mastered the essential academic learning requirements during his or her~~
8 ~~educational career. The certificate of mastery shall be required for~~
9 ~~graduation but shall not be the only requirement for graduation. The~~
10 ~~commission shall make recommendations to the state board of education~~
11 ~~regarding the relationship between the certificate of mastery and high~~
12 ~~school graduation requirements. Upon achieving the certificate of~~
13 ~~mastery,~~) Require that individual results from the eleventh grade
14 assessment required under RCW 28A.230.240 shall be printed on the back
15 of each student's high school diploma indicating the student's level of
16 achievement. For the student's last year of high school, the student's
17 attendance shall be indicated on the high school diploma as a fraction
18 of total teaching days. Schools shall provide students with the
19 opportunity to continue to pursue career and educational objectives
20 through educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and
21 vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not
22 limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work
23 transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,
24 and preparation for technical college, community college, or university
25 education;

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

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

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

38 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher
39 education coordinating board for adopting college and university

1 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent
2 with the essential academic learning requirements ((and the certificate
3 of mastery));

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (i) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the
28 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board
29 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the
30 commission; and

31 (j) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions
32 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning
33 goals.

34 (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the state
35 board of education and the office of the superintendent of public
36 instruction.

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

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

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

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

14 (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby
15 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify
16 the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be
17 able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to
18 develop student assessment and school accountability systems, to review
19 current school district data reporting requirements and make
20 recommendations on what data is necessary for the purposes of
21 accountability and meeting state information needs, and to take other
22 steps necessary to develop a performance-based education system. The
23 commission shall include three members of the state board of education,
24 three members appointed by the governor before July 1, 1992, and five
25 members appointed no later than June 1, 1993, by the governor elected
26 in the November 1992 election. The governor shall appoint a chair from
27 the commission members, and fill any vacancies in gubernatorial
28 appointments that may occur. The state board of education shall fill
29 any vacancies of state board of education appointments that may occur.
30 In making the appointments, educators, business leaders, and parents
31 shall be represented, and nominations from state-wide education,
32 business, and parent organizations shall be requested. Efforts shall
33 be made to ensure that the commission reflects the racial and ethnic
34 diversity of the state's K-12 student population and that the major
35 geographic regions in the state are represented. Appointees shall be
36 qualified individuals who are supportive of educational restructuring,
37 who have a positive record of service, and who will devote sufficient

1 time to the responsibilities of the commission to ensure that the
2 objectives of the commission are achieved.

3 (2) The commission shall establish advisory committees. Membership
4 of the advisory committees shall include, but not necessarily be
5 limited to, professionals from the office of the superintendent of
6 public instruction and the state board of education, and other state
7 and local educational practitioners and student assessment specialists.

8 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,
9 shall:

10 (a) Develop essential academic learning requirements based on the
11 student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Essential academic learning
12 requirements shall be developed, to the extent possible, for each of
13 the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall
14 be considered primary. Essential academic learning requirements for
15 RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the mathematics component of RCW
16 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be completed no later than March 1,
17 1995. Essential academic learning requirements that incorporate the
18 remainder of RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two, three, and
19 four, shall be completed no later than March 1, 1996. To the maximum
20 extent possible, the commission shall integrate goal four and the
21 knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the development of the
22 essential academic learning requirements;

23 (b)(i) The commission shall present to the state board of education
24 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic
25 assessment system for use in the elementary, middle, and high school
26 years designed to determine if each student has mastered the essential
27 academic learning requirements identified in (a) of this subsection.
28 The academic assessment system shall include a variety of assessment
29 methods, including performance-based measures that are criterion-
30 referenced. Performance standards for determining if a student has
31 successfully completed an assessment shall be initially determined by
32 the commission in consultation with the advisory committees required in
33 subsection (2) of this section.

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

1 (iii) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
2 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the
3 mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be
4 initially implemented by the state board of education and
5 superintendent of public instruction no later than the 1996-97 school
6 year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent
7 implementation of the assessment system and essential academic learning
8 requirements. Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
9 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals
10 two, three, and four, shall be initially implemented by the state board
11 of education and superintendent of public instruction no later than the
12 1997-98 school year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or
13 prevent implementation of the assessment system and essential academic
14 learning requirements. To the maximum extent possible, the commission
15 shall integrate knowledge and skill areas in development of the
16 assessments.

17 (iv) Before the 2000-2001 school year, participation by school
18 districts in the assessment system shall be optional. School districts
19 that desire to participate before the 2000-2001 school year shall
20 notify the superintendent of public instruction in a manner determined
21 by the superintendent. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year, all
22 school districts shall be required to participate in the assessment
23 system.

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

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

31 ~~(c) ((After a determination is made by the state board of education
32 that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it
33 is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high
34 school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The
35 certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most students at about the
36 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student has successfully
37 mastered the essential academic learning requirements during his or her
38 educational career. The certificate of mastery shall be required for
39 graduation but shall not be the only requirement for graduation. The~~

1 ~~commission shall make recommendations to the state board of education~~
2 ~~regarding the relationship between the certificate of mastery and high~~
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6 ~~of each student's high school diploma indicating the student's level of~~
7 ~~achievement. For the student's last year of high school, the student's~~
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10 ~~opportunity to continue to pursue career and educational objectives~~
11 ~~through educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and~~
12 ~~vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not~~
13 ~~limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work~~
14 ~~transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,~~
15 ~~and preparation for technical college, community college, or university~~
16 ~~education;~~

17 (d) Consider methods to address the unique needs of special
18 education students when developing the assessments in (b) (~~and (e)~~)
19 of this subsection;

20 (e) Consider methods to address the unique needs of highly capable
21 students when developing the assessments in (b) (~~and (e)~~) of this
22 subsection;

23 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,
24 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts
25 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.
26 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,
27 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost
28 of implementing the academic assessment system;

29 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher
30 education coordinating board for adopting college and university
31 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent
32 with the essential academic learning requirements (~~and the certificate~~
33 ~~of mastery));~~

34 (h) Review current school district data reporting requirements for
35 the purposes of accountability and meeting state information needs.
36 The commission on student learning shall report recommendations to the
37 joint select committee on education restructuring by September 15,
38 1996, on:

1 (i) What data is necessary to compare how school districts are
2 performing before the essential academic learning requirements and the
3 assessment system are implemented with how school districts are
4 performing after the essential academic learning requirements and the
5 assessment system are implemented; and

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

9 (i) By December 1, 1998, recommend to the legislature, governor,
10 state 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)(i) on September 1, 2000;

32 (j) 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 (k) 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 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act expires June 30, 1999.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act expires September 1,
20 1998.

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