
SENATE BILL 6145

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 3rd Special Session

By Senators Fraser, Kohl-Welles, Pedersen, Hatfield, Billig, McCoy, Jayapal, Keiser, Conway, Cleveland, Mullet, Nelson, McAuliffe, Hobbs, Frockt, Lias, Rolfes, and Darneille

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1 AN ACT Relating to delaying for two years the high school
2 graduation requirement of meeting the state standard on the high
3 school science assessment; amending RCW 28A.655.061; and creating new
4 sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the graduating
7 class of 2015 is the first class required to meet the state standard
8 on the state science assessment. The legislature recognizes that the
9 educational system needs more time before this graduation requirement
10 is implemented. Therefore, the sole purpose of the legislature with
11 this legislation is to delay for no more than two years, but not
12 eliminate, the requirement that students must meet the state standard
13 on the science assessment.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 22 s 2 are each
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not
17 be limited to the statewide student assessment, opportunities for a
18 student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which the
19 student was not successful, and, if approved by the legislature
20 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, one or more objective

1 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of
2 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for
3 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
4 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the statewide student
5 assessment for each content area.

6 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
7 academic achievement shall be obtained and is evidence that the
8 students have successfully met the state standard in the content
9 areas included in the certificate. With the exception of students
10 satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045 or 28A.655.0611,
11 acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation from a
12 public high school but is not the only requirement for graduation.

13 (3)(a) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008 through the
14 graduating class of 2015, with the exception of students satisfying
15 the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who meets the state
16 standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics high school
17 statewide student assessment shall earn a certificate of academic
18 achievement. The mathematics assessment shall be the end-of-course
19 assessment for the first year of high school mathematics that
20 assesses the standards common to algebra I and integrated mathematics
21 I or the end-of-course assessment for the second year of high school
22 mathematics that assesses standards common to geometry and integrated
23 mathematics II.

24 (b) As the state transitions from reading and writing assessments
25 to an English language arts assessment and from end-of-course
26 assessments to a comprehensive assessment for high school
27 mathematics, a student in a graduating class of 2016 through 2018
28 shall earn a certificate of academic achievement if the student meets
29 the state standard as follows:

30 (i) Students in the graduating class of 2016 may use the results
31 from:

32 (A) The reading and writing assessment or the English language
33 arts assessment developed with the multistate consortium; and

34 (B) The end-of-course assessment for the first year of high
35 school mathematics, the end-of-course assessment for the second year
36 of high school mathematics, or the comprehensive mathematics
37 assessment developed with the multistate consortium.

38 (ii) Students in the graduating classes of 2017 and 2018 may use
39 the results from:

1 (A) The tenth grade English language arts assessment developed by
2 the superintendent of public instruction using resources from the
3 multistate consortium or the English language arts assessment
4 developed with the multistate consortium; and

5 (B) The end-of-course assessment for the first year of high
6 school mathematics, the end-of-course assessment for the second year
7 of high school mathematics, or the comprehensive mathematics
8 assessment developed with the multistate consortium.

9 (c) Beginning with the graduating class of 2019, a student who
10 meets the state standards on the high school English language arts
11 assessment developed with the multistate consortium and the
12 comprehensive mathematics assessment developed with the multistate
13 consortium shall earn a certificate of academic achievement.

14 (d) If a student does not successfully meet the state standards
15 in one or more content areas required for the certificate of academic
16 achievement, then the student may retake the assessment in the
17 content area at least twice a year at no cost to the student. If the
18 student successfully meets the state standards on a retake of the
19 assessment then the student shall earn a certificate of academic
20 achievement. Once objective alternative assessments are authorized
21 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, a student may use the
22 objective alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student
23 successfully meets the state standards for that content area if the
24 student has taken the statewide student assessment at least once. If
25 the student successfully meets the state standards on the objective
26 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of
27 academic achievement.

28 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of (~~(2015)~~) 2017, a
29 student must meet the state standards in science in addition to the
30 other content areas required under subsection (3) of this section on
31 the statewide student assessment, a retake, or the objective
32 alternative assessments in order to earn a certificate of academic
33 achievement.

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

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

1 (7) School districts must make available to students the
2 following options:

3 (a) To retake the statewide student assessment at least twice a
4 year in the content areas in which the student did not meet the state
5 standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

6 (b) To retake the statewide student assessment at least twice a
7 year in the content areas in which the student did not meet the state
8 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
14 high school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall
15 pay for retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by
16 the superintendent of public instruction.

17 (9) Opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year
18 shall be available to each school district.

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

34 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English,
35 or writing portion of the SAT or the ACT may be used as an objective
36 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
37 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate
38 of academic achievement. The state board of education shall identify
39 the scores students must achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT
40 or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard in the relevant content

1 area on the statewide student assessment. A student's score on the
2 science portion of the ACT or the science subject area tests of the
3 SAT may be used as an objective alternative assessment under this
4 section as soon as the state board of education determines that
5 sufficient data is available to identify reliable equivalent scores
6 for the science content area of the statewide student assessment.
7 After the first scores are established, the state board may increase
8 but not decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed
9 the state standards.

10 (ii) A student who scores at least a three on the grading scale
11 of one to five for selected AP examinations may use the score as an
12 objective alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating
13 that a student has met or exceeded state standards for the
14 certificate of academic achievement. A score of three on the AP
15 examinations in calculus or statistics may be used as an alternative
16 assessment for the mathematics portion of the statewide student
17 assessment. A score of three on the AP examinations in English
18 language and composition may be used as an alternative assessment for
19 the writing portion of the statewide student assessment; and for the
20 English language arts portion of the assessment developed with the
21 multistate consortium, once established in the 2014-15 school year. A
22 score of three on the AP examinations in English literature and
23 composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United
24 States history, world history, United States government and politics,
25 or comparative government and politics may be used as an alternative
26 assessment for the reading portion of the statewide student
27 assessment; and for the English language arts portion of the
28 assessment developed with the multistate consortium, once established
29 in the 2014-15 school year. A score of three on the AP examination in
30 biology, physics, chemistry, or environmental science may be used as
31 an alternative assessment for the science portion of the statewide
32 student assessment.

33 (iii) A student who scores at least a four on selected externally
34 administered international baccalaureate (IB) examinations may use
35 the score as an objective alternative assessment under this section
36 for demonstrating that the student has met or exceeded state
37 standards for the certificate of academic achievement. A score of
38 four on the higher level IB examinations for any of the IB English
39 language and literature courses or for any of the IB individuals and
40 societies courses may be used as an alternative assessment for the

1 reading, writing, or English language arts portions of the statewide
2 student assessment. A score of four on the higher level IB
3 examinations for any of the IB mathematics courses may be used as an
4 alternative assessment for the mathematics portion of the statewide
5 student assessment. A score of four on the higher level IB
6 examinations for IB biology, chemistry, or physics may be used as an
7 alternative assessment for the science portion of the statewide
8 student assessment.

9 (11) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
10 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students
11 are on track for high school graduation, each school district shall
12 prepare plans for and notify students and their parents or legal
13 guardians as provided in this subsection. Student learning plans are
14 required for eighth grade students who were not successful on any or
15 all of the content areas of the state assessment during the previous
16 school year or who may not be on track to graduate due to credit
17 deficiencies or absences. The parent or legal guardian shall be
18 notified about the information in the student learning plan,
19 preferably through a parent conference and at least annually. To the
20 extent feasible, schools serving English language learner students
21 and their parents shall translate the plan into the primary language
22 of the family. The plan shall include the following information as
23 applicable:

24 (a) The student's results on the state assessment;

25 (b) If the student is in the transitional bilingual program, the
26 score on his or her Washington language proficiency test II;

27 (c) Any credit deficiencies;

28 (d) The student's attendance rates over the previous two years;

29 (e) The student's progress toward meeting state and local
30 graduation requirements;

31 (f) The courses, competencies, and other steps needed to be taken
32 by the student to meet state academic standards and stay on track for
33 graduation;

34 (g) Remediation strategies and alternative education options
35 available to students, including informing students of the option to
36 continue to receive instructional services after grade twelve or
37 until the age of twenty-one;

38 (h) The alternative assessment options available to students
39 under this section and RCW 28A.655.065;

1 (i) School district programs, high school courses, and career and
2 technical education options available for students to meet graduation
3 requirements; and

4 (j) Available programs offered through skill centers or community
5 and technical colleges, including the college high school diploma
6 options under RCW 28B.50.535.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act applies
8 retroactively to students in the graduating class of 2015, and
9 prospectively beginning with students in the graduating class of
10 2016.

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