
SENATE BILL 5499

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator McAuliffe; by request of Office of Financial Management and Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/25/95. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to changing timelines for essential academic
2 learning requirement assessments; amending RCW 28A.630.885; amending
3 1992 c 141 s 203 (uncodified); and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.630.885 and 1994 c 245 s 13 are each amended to
6 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 ((1997-98)) 1998-99 school year, unless the legislature takes action to
22 delay or prevent implementation of the assessment system and essential
23 academic learning requirements. To the maximum extent possible, the
24 commission shall integrate knowledge and skill areas in development of
25 the 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, schools shall provide students with the opportunity to
14 continue to pursue career and educational objectives through
15 educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and
16 vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not
17 limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work
18 transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,
19 and preparation for technical college, community college, or university
20 education;

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

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

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

33 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher
34 education coordinating board for adopting college and university
35 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent
36 with the essential academic learning requirements and the certificate
37 of mastery;

1 (h) By December 1, (~~(1998)~~) 1999, recommend to the legislature,
2 governor, state board of education, and superintendent of public
3 instruction:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support
39 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall

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

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

10 **Sec. 2.** 1992 c 141 s 203 (uncodified) is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 Section 202 of this act shall expire September 1, (~~1998~~) 1999.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act shall expire September
14 1, 1999.

--- END ---