
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6516

State of Washington**54th Legislature****1996 Regular Session**

By Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Rinehart, Drew and Winsley; by request of Joint Select Committee on Education Restructuring, Board of Education and Commission on Student Learning)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the timelines for the development and
2 implementation of the student assessment system; amending RCW
3 28A.630.952; amending 1993 c 336 s 1010 (uncodified); reenacting and
4 amending RCW 28A.630.885; adding a new section to chapter 28A.305 RCW;
5 repealing 1995 c 335 s 803 (uncodified); repealing 1995 c 335 s 804
6 (uncodified); repealing 1994 c 245 s 16 (uncodified); and providing
7 expiration dates.

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

9 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.630.885 and 1995 c 335 s 505 and 1995 c 209 s 1
10 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

11 (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby
12 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify
13 the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be
14 able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to
15 develop student assessment and school accountability systems, to review
16 current school district data reporting requirements and make
17 recommendations on what data is necessary for the purposes of
18 accountability and meeting state information needs, and to take other
19 steps necessary to develop a performance-based education system. The

1 commission shall include three members of the state board of education,
2 three members appointed by the governor before July 1, 1992, and five
3 members appointed no later than June 1, 1993, by the governor elected
4 in the November 1992 election. The governor shall appoint a chair from
5 the commission members, and fill any vacancies in gubernatorial
6 appointments that may occur. The state board of education shall fill
7 any vacancies of state board of education appointments that may occur.
8 In making the appointments, educators, business leaders, and parents
9 shall be represented, and nominations from state-wide education,
10 business, and parent organizations shall be requested. Efforts shall
11 be made to ensure that the commission reflects the racial and ethnic
12 diversity of the state's K-12 student population and that the major
13 geographic regions in the state are represented. Appointees shall be
14 qualified individuals who are supportive of educational restructuring,
15 who have a positive record of service, and who will devote sufficient
16 time to the responsibilities of the commission to ensure that the
17 objectives of the commission are achieved.

18 (2) The commission shall establish advisory committees. Membership
19 of the advisory committees shall include, but not necessarily be
20 limited to, professionals from the office of the superintendent of
21 public instruction and the state board of education, and other state
22 and local educational practitioners and student assessment specialists.

23 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,
24 shall:

25 (a) Develop essential academic learning requirements based on the
26 student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Essential academic learning
27 requirements shall be developed, to the extent possible, for each of
28 the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall
29 be considered primary. Essential academic learning requirements for
30 RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the mathematics component of RCW
31 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be completed no later than March 1,
32 1995. Essential academic learning requirements that incorporate the
33 remainder of RCW 28A.150.210(2)((~~3~~), ~~and~~ (~~4~~)), goal(~~s~~) two,
34 (~~three, and four~~) shall be completed no later than March 1, 1996.
35 To the maximum extent possible, the commission shall integrate the
36 essential academic learning requirements for RCW 28A.150.210 (3) and
37 (4), goals three and four and the knowledge and skill areas in the
38 other goals in the ((~~development of the~~)) essential academic learning
39 requirements for goals one and two;

1 (b)(i) The commission shall present to the state board of education
2 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic
3 assessment system for use in the elementary, middle, and high school
4 years designed to determine if each student has mastered the essential
5 academic learning requirements identified in (a) of this subsection.
6 The academic assessment system shall include a variety of assessment
7 methods that are criterion referenced, including performance-based
8 measures (~~((that are criterion referenced))~~). Performance standards for
9 determining if a student has successfully completed an assessment shall
10 be initially determined by the commission in consultation with the
11 advisory committees required in subsection (2) of this section.

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

18 (iii)(A) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
19 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the
20 mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be
21 (~~((initially implemented by the state board of education and
22 superintendent of public instruction no later than the 1996-97 school
23 year))~~) developed and initially implemented by the commission before
24 transferring the assessment system to the superintendent of public
25 instruction. For goal one and the mathematics component of goal two,
26 the elementary assessment shall be available for use by districts no
27 later than the 1996-97 school year, the middle grades assessment no
28 later than the 1997-98 school year, and the high school assessment no
29 later than the 1998-99 school year, unless the legislature takes action
30 to delay or prevent implementation of the assessment system and
31 essential academic learning requirements. The assessment system shall
32 be transferred to the superintendent of public instruction no later
33 than June 30, 1999, for continued implementation.

34 (B) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
35 requirements developed for the remaining components of RCW 28A.150.210
36 (2), (~~((3), and (4),))~~ goal((s)) two, (~~((three, and four,))~~ shall be
37 ((initially implemented by the state board of education and)) developed
38 and initially implemented by the commission before transferring the
39 assessments to the superintendent of public instruction. The

1 assessments for the remaining components of goal two shall not include
2 state-level assessments in the elementary grades. However, the
3 commission shall develop classroom-based assessments for voluntary use
4 in elementary grades. The commission shall not include state-level
5 assessments of the art, health, and fitness components. However, the
6 commission shall develop classroom-based assessments in art, health,
7 and fitness for voluntary use by schools.

8 The commission and the state board of education shall make
9 recommendations to the legislature regarding assessment of goal two in
10 the elementary grades and the art, health, and fitness assessments in
11 accordance with section 2 of this act.

12 Unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent
13 implementation of the assessment system and essential academic learning
14 requirements, the:

15 (I) Middle school and high school science assessments shall be
16 available for use by districts no later than the 1998-99 school year;

17 (II) Middle and high school history, civics, and geography
18 assessments shall be available for use by districts no later than the
19 1999-2000 school year; and

20 (III) Classroom-based assessments for elementary science shall be
21 available for use by districts no later than the 1998-99 school year.
22 The other classroom-based assessments shall be available for use by
23 districts no later than the 1999-2000 school year.

24 The assessments shall be transferred to the superintendent of
25 public instruction no later than ((the 1998-99 school year, unless the
26 legislature takes action to delay or prevent implementation of the
27 assessment system and essential academic learning requirements)) June
28 30, 1999, for continued implementation.

29 (C) The assessments of RCW 28A.150.210 (3) and (4), goals three and
30 four, shall be integrated in the assessments developed for goals one
31 and two.

32 (D) To the maximum extent possible, the commission shall integrate
33 knowledge and skill areas in development of the assessments.

34 (E) The commission shall work closely with the superintendent of
35 public instruction and the state board of education during the
36 development and initial implementation of the assessment system.

37 (iv) Before the 2000-2001 school year, participation by school
38 districts in the assessment system shall be optional. School districts
39 that desire to participate before the 2000-2001 school year shall

1 notify the commission on student learning or the superintendent of
2 public instruction, as appropriate, in a manner determined by the
3 superintendent. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year, all school
4 districts shall be required to participate in the assessment system.

5 (v) The commission on student learning may modify the essential
6 academic learning requirements and the assessments, as needed, on or
7 before June 30, 1999. The state board of education (~~and~~
8 ~~superintendent of public instruction~~) may modify the essential
9 academic learning requirements (~~and academic assessment system~~), as
10 needed, (~~in subsequent school years~~) after June 30, 1999, and the
11 superintendent of public instruction may modify the academic assessment
12 system, as needed, after June 30, 1999.

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

17 (c) After a determination is made by the state board of education
18 that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it
19 is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high
20 school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The
21 certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most students at about the
22 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student has successfully
23 mastered the essential academic learning requirements during his or her
24 educational career. The certificate of mastery shall be required for
25 graduation but shall not be the only requirement for graduation. (~~The~~
26 ~~commission shall make recommendations to the state board of education~~
27 ~~regarding the relationship between the certificate of mastery and high~~
28 ~~school graduation requirements.~~) Upon achieving the certificate of
29 mastery, schools shall provide students with the opportunity to
30 continue to pursue career and educational objectives through
31 educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and
32 vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not
33 limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work
34 transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,
35 and preparation for technical college, community college, or university
36 education;

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

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

4 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,
5 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts
6 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.
7 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,
8 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost
9 of implementing the academic assessment system;

10 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher
11 education coordinating board for adopting college and university
12 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent
13 with the essential academic learning requirements and the certificate
14 of mastery;

15 (h) Review current school district data reporting requirements for
16 the purposes of accountability and meeting state information needs.
17 The commission on student learning shall report recommendations to the
18 joint select committee on education restructuring by September 15,
19 1996, on:

20 (i) What data is necessary to compare how school districts are
21 performing before the essential academic learning requirements and the
22 assessment system are implemented with how school districts are
23 performing after the essential academic learning requirements and the
24 assessment system are implemented; and

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

28 (i) By June 30, 1999, recommend to the legislature, governor, state
29 board of education, and superintendent of public instruction:

30 (i) A state-wide accountability system to monitor and evaluate
31 accurately and fairly the level of learning occurring in individual
32 schools and school districts. The accountability system shall be
33 designed to recognize the characteristics of the student population of
34 schools and school districts such as gender, race, ethnicity,
35 socioeconomic status, and other factors. The system shall include
36 school-site, school district, and state-level accountability reports;

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

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

4 (iv) An awards program to provide incentives to school staff to
5 help their students learn the essential academic learning requirements,
6 with each school being assessed individually against its own baseline.
7 Incentives shall be based on the rate of percentage change of students
8 achieving the essential academic learning requirements. School staff
9 shall determine how the awards will be spent.

10 It is the intent of the legislature to begin implementation of
11 programs in this subsection (3)(i) on September 1, 2000;

12 (j) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the
13 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board
14 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the
15 commission; and

16 (k) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions
17 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning
18 goals.

19 (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the state
20 board of education and the office of the superintendent of public
21 instruction.

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

25 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support
26 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
27 provide administrative oversight and be the fiscal agent for the
28 commission. The commission may direct the office of the superintendent
29 of public instruction to enter into subcontracts, within the
30 commission's resources, with school districts, teachers, higher
31 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other
32 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its
33 deliberations.

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

36 (8) This section expires June 30, 1999.

37 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28A.305
38 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The state board of education and the commission on student
2 learning shall analyze issues and make recommendations associated with
3 making the certificate of mastery, or components of the certificate, a
4 graduation requirement. The board and commission shall consider other
5 or additional methods in which the assessments could be used to raise
6 the expectations of schools and students, including using the
7 assessments: (a) As admission criteria for public school students into
8 technical training programs, internships, apprenticeships, running
9 start, and colleges and universities; (b) for endorsements on a
10 diploma; or (c) for other purposes. Recommendations also shall be
11 provided regarding the appropriate phase-in of different approaches.

12 The board and commission also shall consider the use of
13 endorsements in art, health, and fitness and the need to maintain
14 current graduation requirements in these subject areas.

15 The board and commission shall report to the legislature no later
16 than December 31, 1996, with their finding and recommendations.

17 (2) The state board of education shall make recommendations to the
18 legislature no later than December 1, 2001, regarding whether science,
19 history, civics, geography, art, health, and fitness should be required
20 in the state-mandated elementary assessments created in RCW
21 28A.630.885. Recommendations also shall be provided regarding whether
22 to establish mandatory state-level assessments in art, health, and
23 fitness in the middle and high school grades.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.630.952 and 1995 c 335 s 506 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) In addition to the duties in RCW 28A.630.951, the joint select
27 committee on education restructuring shall review all laws pertaining
28 to K-12 public education and to educator preparation and certification
29 with the intent of identifying laws that inhibit the achievement of the
30 new system of performance-based education. The select committee shall
31 report to the legislature by November 15, 1994. The laws pertaining to
32 home schooling and private schools shall not be reviewed in this study.

33 (2) The joint select committee on education restructuring shall
34 review the school district data reporting requirements for the purposes
35 of accountability and meeting state information needs reported by the
36 commission on student learning under RCW 28A.630.885. The joint select
37 committee shall report its recommendations to the legislature by
38 January (~~(1996)~~) 1997.

1 (3) This section expires December 1, 2001.

2 **Sec. 4.** 1993 c 336 s 1010 (uncodified) is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 Sections 1001 (~~through~~), 1002, 1004, and 1005 of this act shall
5 expire December 1, 2001.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** 1995 c 335 s 803 (uncodified) is repealed.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
8 repealed:

9 (1) 1995 c 335 s 804 (uncodified); and

10 (2) 1994 c 245 s 16 (uncodified).

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