

ESSB 6475 - H AMD 1120
By Representative Quall

ADOPTED 3/3/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter
4 28A.655 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The legislature has made a commitment to rigorous academic
6 standards for receipt of a high school diploma. The primary way
7 that students will demonstrate that they meet the standards in
8 reading, writing, mathematics, and science is through the
9 Washington assessment of student learning. Only objective
10 assessments that are comparable in rigor to the state assessment
11 are authorized as an alternative assessment. Before seeking an
12 alternative assessment, the legislature expects students to make a
13 genuine effort to meet state standards, through retaking the
14 Washington assessment of student learning; regular and consistent
15 attendance at school; and participation in extended learning and
16 other assistance programs.

17 (2) Under RCW 28A.655.061, beginning in the 2006-07 school
18 year, the superintendent of public instruction shall implement
19 objective alternative assessment methods as provided in this
20 section for students to demonstrate achievement of the state
21 standards in content areas in which the student has not yet met the
22 standard on the high school Washington assessment of student
23 learning. A student may access an alternative if the student meets
24 applicable eligibility criteria in RCW 28A.655.061 and other
25 eligibility criteria established by the superintendent of public
26 instruction, including but not limited to attendance criteria and
27 participation in the remediation or supplemental instruction
28 contained in the student learning plan developed under RCW
29 28A.655.061. A school district may waive attendance and/or
30 remediation criteria for special, unavoidable circumstances.

1 (3) For the purposes of this section, "applicant" means a
2 student seeking to use one of the alternative assessment methods in
3 this section.

4 (4) One alternative assessment method shall be a combination of
5 the applicant's grades in applicable courses and the applicant's
6 highest score on the high school Washington assessment of student
7 learning, as provided in this subsection. The superintendent of
8 public instruction shall determine which high school courses are
9 applicable to the alternative assessment method and shall issue
10 guidelines to school districts.

11 (a) Using guidelines prepared by the superintendent of public
12 instruction, a school district shall identify the group of students
13 in the same school as the applicant who took the same high school
14 courses as the applicant in the applicable content area. From the
15 group of students identified in this manner, the district shall
16 select the comparison cohort that shall be those students who met
17 or slightly exceeded the state standard on the Washington
18 assessment of student learning.

19 (b) The district shall compare the applicant's grades in high
20 school courses in the applicable content area to the grades of
21 students in the comparison cohort for the same high school courses.
22 If the applicant's grades are equal to or above the mean grades of
23 the comparison cohort, the applicant shall be deemed to have met
24 the state standard on the alternative assessment.

25 (c) An applicant may not use the alternative assessment under
26 this subsection (4) if there are fewer than six students in the
27 comparison cohort.

28 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop an
29 alternative assessment method that shall be an evaluation of a
30 collection of work samples prepared and submitted by the applicant,
31 as provided in this subsection and, for career and technical
32 applicants, the additional requirements of subsection (6) of this
33 section.

34 (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop
35 guidelines for the types and number of work samples in each content
36 area that may be submitted as a collection of evidence that the
37 applicant has met the state standard in that content area. Work
38 samples may be collected from academic, career and technical, or
39 remedial courses and may include performance tasks as well as

1 written products. The superintendent shall submit the guidelines
2 for approval by the state board of education.

3 (b) The superintendent shall develop protocols for submission
4 of the collection of work samples that include affidavits from the
5 applicant's teachers and school district that the samples are the
6 work of the applicant and a requirement that a portion of the
7 samples be prepared under the direct supervision of a classroom
8 teacher. The superintendent shall submit the protocols for
9 approval by the state board of education.

10 (c) The superintendent shall develop uniform scoring criteria
11 for evaluating the collection of work samples and submit the
12 scoring criteria for approval by the state board of education.
13 Collections shall be scored at the state level or regionally by a
14 panel of educators selected and trained by the superintendent to
15 ensure objectivity, reliability, and rigor in the evaluation. An
16 educator may not score work samples submitted by applicants from
17 the educator's school district. If the panel awards an applicant's
18 collection of work samples the minimum required score, the
19 applicant shall be deemed to have met the state standard on the
20 alternative assessment.

21 (d) Using an open and public process that includes
22 consultation with district superintendents, school principals, and
23 other educators, the state board of education shall consider the
24 guidelines, protocols, scoring criteria, and other information
25 regarding the collection of work samples submitted by the
26 superintendent of public instruction. The collection of work
27 samples may be implemented as an alternative assessment after the
28 state board of education has approved the guidelines, protocols,
29 and scoring criteria and determined that the collection of work
30 samples: (i) will meet professionally accepted standards for a
31 valid and reliable measure of the grade level expectations and the
32 essential academic learning requirements; and (ii) is comparable to
33 or exceeds the rigor of the skills and knowledge that a student
34 must demonstrate on the Washington assessment of student learning
35 in the applicable content area. The state board shall make an
36 approval decision and determination no later than December 1, 2006,
37 and thereafter may increase the required rigor of the collection of
38 work samples.

1 (e) By September of 2006, the superintendent of public
2 instruction shall develop informational materials for parents,
3 teachers, and students regarding the collection of work samples and
4 the status of its development as an alternative assessment method.
5 The materials shall provide specific guidance regarding the type
6 and number of work samples likely to be required, include examples
7 of work that meets the state learning standards, and describe the
8 scoring criteria and process for the collection. The materials
9 shall also encourage students in the graduating class of 2008 to
10 begin creating a collection if they believe they may seek to use
11 the collection once it is implemented as an alternative assessment.

12 (6)(a) For students enrolled in a career and technical
13 education program approved under section 2 of this act, the
14 superintendent of public instruction shall develop additional
15 guidelines for a collection of work samples that evidences that the
16 collection:

17 (i) Is relevant to the student's particular career and
18 technical program;

19 (ii) Focuses on the application of academic knowledge and
20 skills within the program;

21 (iii) Includes completed activities or projects where
22 demonstration of academic knowledge is inferred; and

23 (iv) Is related to the essential academic learning requirements
24 and state standards that students must meet to earn a certificate
25 of academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement,
26 but also represents the knowledge and skills that successful
27 individuals in the career and technical field of the approved
28 program are expected to possess.

29 (b) To meet the state standard on the alternative assessment
30 under this subsection (6), an applicant must also attain the state
31 or nationally recognized certificate or credential associated with
32 the approved career and technical program.

33 (c) The superintendent shall consult with community and
34 technical colleges, employers, the work force training and
35 education coordinating board, apprenticeship programs, and other
36 regional and national experts in career and technical education to
37 create an appropriate collection of work samples and other evidence
38 of a career and technical student's knowledge and skills on the
39 state academic standards.

1 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall study the
2 feasibility of using existing mathematics assessments in languages
3 other than English as an additional alternative assessment option.
4 The study shall include an estimation of the cost of translating
5 the tenth grade mathematics assessment into other languages and
6 scoring the assessments should they be implemented.

7 (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall implement:

8 (a) By June 1, 2006, a process for students to appeal the score
9 they received on the high school assessments; and

10 (b) By January 1, 2007, guidelines and appeal processes for
11 waiving specific requirements in RCW 28A.655.061 pertaining to the
12 certificate of academic achievement and to the certificate of
13 individual achievement for students who: (i) Transfer to a
14 Washington public school in their junior or senior year with the
15 intent of obtaining a public high school diploma, or (ii) have
16 special, unavoidable circumstances.

17 (9) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to
18 implement this section.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.04
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 The superintendent of public instruction shall develop a list
22 of approved career and technical education programs that qualify
23 for the objective alternative assessment for career and technical
24 students developed under section 1 of this act. Programs on the
25 list must meet the following minimum criteria:

26 (1) Lead to a certificate or credential that is state or
27 nationally recognized by trades, industries, or other professional
28 associations as necessary for employment or advancement in that
29 field;

30 (2) Require a sequenced progression of multiple courses, both
31 exploratory and preparatory, that are vocationally intensive and
32 rigorous; and

33 (3) Have a high potential for providing the program completer
34 with gainful employment or entry into a postsecondary work force
35 training program.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) By September 10, 2006, the
37 superintendent of public instruction shall report the following, in

1 detail, to the education committees of the legislature:

2 (a) Results of the pilot testing of the alternative assessments
3 authorized under section 1 of this act, particularly the pilot
4 testing of the collection of work samples or collection of evidence;

5 (b) The proposed guidelines, protocols, and procedures to be
6 used by the superintendent in implementing the alternative
7 assessments, particularly the collection of evidence;

8 (c) The proposed criteria, rubrics, and methodology for scoring
9 the collection of evidence;

10 (d) A description of the training to be provided for school
11 districts, educators serving on scoring panels, and teachers
12 assisting students with collections of evidence;

13 (e) Preliminary results of the feasibility study in section
14 1(7) of this act; and

15 (f) Updated estimates of the number of students likely to be
16 eligible or apply for an alternative assessment method.

17 (2) By December 1, 2006, and again by February 1, 2007, the
18 superintendent of public instruction shall provide the education
19 committees of the legislature with an update on the number of
20 students eligible for or participating in an alternative assessment
21 method.

22 (3) The Washington state institute for public policy shall
23 conduct an independent and objective evaluation of the reliability,
24 validity, and rigor of the alternative assessment methods
25 authorized under section 1 of this act, including an examination of
26 a representative sample of the collections of work samples
27 submitted by the graduating classes of 2008 and 2009. The
28 institute shall submit its findings to the education committees of
29 the legislature by September 1, 2009, to enable the legislature to
30 develop and consider statutory changes to the alternative
31 assessment during the 2010 legislative session.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2004 c 19 s 101 are each amended
33 to read as follows:

34 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need
35 not be limited to the Washington assessment of student learning,
36 opportunities for a student to retake the content areas of the
37 assessment in which the student was not successful, and if approved
38 by the legislature pursuant to subsection (~~((11))~~) (10) of this

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

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

15 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the
16 exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045,
17 a student who meets the state standards on the reading, writing,
18 and mathematics content areas of the high school Washington
19 assessment of student learning shall earn a certificate of academic
20 achievement. If a student does not successfully meet the state
21 standards in one or more content areas required for the certificate
22 of academic achievement, then the student may retake the assessment
23 in the content area up to four times at no cost to the student. If
24 the student successfully meets the state standards on a retake of
25 the assessment then the student shall earn a certificate of
26 academic achievement. Once objective alternative assessments are
27 authorized pursuant to subsection ~~((11))~~ (10) of this section, a
28 student may use the objective alternative assessments to
29 demonstrate that the student successfully meets the state standards
30 for that content area if the student has retaken the Washington
31 assessment of student learning at least once. If the student
32 successfully meets the state standards on the objective alternative
33 assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of academic
34 achievement. ~~((The student's transcript shall note whether the
35 certificate of academic achievement was acquired by means of the
36 Washington assessment of student learning or by an alternative
37 assessment.))~~

38 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, a student must
39 meet the state standards in science in addition to the other

1 content areas required under subsection (3) of this section on the
2 Washington assessment of student learning or the objective
3 alternative assessments in order to earn a certificate of academic
4 achievement.

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

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

12 ~~(7) ((Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, the highest
13 scale score and level achieved in each content area on the high
14 school Washington assessment of student learning shall be displayed
15 on a student's transcript. In addition, beginning with the
16 graduating class of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's
17 designation on his or her transcript for each content area in which
18 the student achieves level four the first time the student takes
19 that content area assessment.~~

20 ~~—(8))~~ Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available
21 to students the following options:

22 (a) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up
23 to four times in the content areas in which the student did not
24 meet the state standards if the student is enrolled in a public
25 school; or

26 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up
27 to four times in the content areas in which the student did not
28 meet the state standards if the student is enrolled in a high
29 school completion program at a community or technical college. The
30 superintendent of public instruction and the state board for
31 community and technical colleges shall jointly identify means by
32 which students in these programs can be assessed.

33 ~~((9))~~ (8) Students who achieve the standard in a content area
34 of the high school assessment but who wish to improve their results
35 shall pay for retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost
36 determined by the superintendent of public instruction.

37 ~~((10))~~ (9) Subject to available funding, the superintendent
38 shall pilot opportunities for retaking the high school assessment
39 beginning in the 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than

1 September 2006, opportunities to retake the assessment at least
2 twice a year shall be available to each school district.

3 ~~((+11+))~~ (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public
4 instruction shall develop options for implementing objective
5 alternative assessments, which may include an appeals process, for
6 students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic
7 standards. The objective alternative assessments shall be
8 comparable in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student
9 must demonstrate on the Washington assessment of student learning
10 and be objective in its determination of student achievement of the
11 state standards. Before any objective alternative assessments in
12 addition to those authorized in section 1 of this act or (b) of
13 this subsection are used by a student to demonstrate that the
14 student has met the state standards in a content area required to
15 obtain a certificate, the legislature shall formally approve the
16 use of any objective alternative assessments through the omnibus
17 appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

18 ~~((+12+))~~ (b) A student's score on the mathematics portion of
19 the preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT), the scholastic
20 assessment test (SAT), or the American college test (ACT) may be
21 used as an objective alternative assessment under this section for
22 demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded the mathematics
23 standards for the certificate of academic achievement. The state
24 board of education shall identify the scores students must achieve
25 on the mathematics portion of the PSAT, SAT, or ACT to meet or
26 exceed the state standard for mathematics. The state board of
27 education shall identify the first scores by December 1, 2006, and
28 thereafter may increase but not decrease the scores required for
29 students to meet or exceed the state standard for mathematics.

30 (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and
31 senate education committees shall obtain information and
32 conclusions from recognized, independent, national assessment
33 experts regarding the validity and reliability of the high school
34 Washington assessment of student learning for making individual
35 student high school graduation determinations.

36 ~~((+13+))~~ (12) To help assure continued progress in academic
37 achievement as a foundation for high school graduation and to
38 assure that students are on track for high school graduation, each

1 school district shall prepare plans for students as provided in
2 this subsection (~~((13))~~) (12).

3 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through
4 twelfth grade students who were not successful on any or all of the
5 content areas of the Washington assessment for student learning
6 during the previous school year. The plan shall include the
7 courses, competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the
8 student to meet state academic standards and stay on track for
9 graduation. This requirement shall be phased in as follows:

10 (i) Beginning no later than the 2004-05 school year ninth grade
11 students as described in this subsection (~~((13))~~) (12)(a) shall
12 have a plan.

13 (ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every
14 year thereafter eighth grade students as described in this
15 subsection (~~((13))~~) (12)(a) shall have a plan.

16 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably
17 through a parent conference, of the student's results on the
18 Washington assessment of student learning, actions the school
19 intends to take to improve the student's skills in any content area
20 in which the student was unsuccessful, strategies to help them
21 improve their student's skills, and the content of the student's
22 plan.

23 (iv) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
24 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to
25 the plan made as necessary.

26 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year
27 thereafter, all fifth grade students who were not successful in one
28 or more of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington
29 assessment of student learning shall have a student learning plan.

30 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this
31 subsection (~~((13))~~) (12)(b) shall be notified, preferably through
32 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
33 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take
34 to improve the student's skills in any content area in which the
35 student was unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them
36 improve their student's skills.

37 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
38 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to
39 the plan made as necessary.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter
2 28A.655 RCW to read as follows:

3 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
4 purpose, school districts shall reimburse students for the cost of
5 taking the tests in RCW 28A.655.061(10)(b) when the students take
6 the tests for the purpose of using the mathematics results as an
7 objective alternative assessment.

8 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.305.220 and 2004 c 19 s 108 are each amended
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) The state board of education shall develop for use by all
11 public school districts a standardized high school transcript. The
12 state board of education shall establish clear definitions for the
13 terms "credits" and "hours" so that school programs operating on
14 the quarter, semester, or trimester system can be compared.

15 (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include ~~((the~~
16 ~~following information:~~

17 ~~— (a) The highest scale score and level achieved in each content~~
18 ~~area on the high school Washington assessment of student learning~~
19 ~~or other high school measures successfully completed by the student~~
20 ~~as provided by RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.155.045;~~

21 ~~— (b) All scholar designations as provided by RCW 28A.655.061;~~

22 ~~— (c))~~ a notation of whether the student has earned a
23 certificate of individual achievement or a certificate of academic
24 achievement ~~((by means of the Washington assessment of student~~
25 ~~learning or by an alternative assessment)).~~

26 (3) Transcripts are important documents to students who will
27 apply for admission to postsecondary institutions of higher
28 education. Transcripts are also important to students who will
29 seek employment upon or prior to graduation from high school. It
30 is recognized that student transcripts may be the only record
31 available to employers in their decision-making processes regarding
32 prospective employees. The superintendent of public instruction
33 shall require school districts to inform annually all high school
34 students that prospective employers may request to see transcripts
35 and that the prospective employee's decision to release transcripts
36 can be an important part of the process of applying for employment.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of
2 this act and section 5 of this act, referencing this act and
3 section 5 of this act by bill or chapter number and section number,
4 is not provided by June 30, 2006, in the omnibus appropriations
5 act, section 5 of this act is null and void."

6 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Changes the underlying bill in the following ways:

States that students must meet attendance criteria and participation in remediation in their student learning plan, unless waived by the district, to participate in an alternative assessment.

Requires SPI to submit the scoring guidelines, protocols, and criteria for the collection of evidence alternative assessment method to the State Board of Education for approval. After the SBE approves these items and determines the collection will meet professionally accepted standards for reliability and validity and is comparable to or exceeds the rigor of the skills demonstrated on the WASL, allows implementation of the collection of evidence method. Requires the SBE to make an approval decision and determination by December 1, 2006.

Requires SPI, by September 2006, to develop informational materials that describe the collection of evidence, including examples of work that meets the state standard and scoring criteria, and encourage students to begin creating a collection if they may seek to use it as an alternative assessment.

Adds proposed scoring criteria, rubrics, and methodology for scoring the collection of evidence to the information SPI must report to the Education Committees by September 2006. Makes the September report due September 10.

Adds additional reports: By December 1, 2006, and again by February 1, 2007, the SPI must provide an update on the number of students eligible or participating in alternative assessments.

Directs the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to conduct an independent evaluation of the reliability, validity, and rigor of the alternative assessments and report to the Legislature by September 1, 2009.

Removes the WASL score and level from student transcripts. Eliminates the scholar designation for students who score at a Level 4 on their first WASL attempt. Eliminates a notation on the transcript of whether a student met state standards through the WASL or through an alternative assessment.

Allows a student's PSAT, SAT, or ACT scores to be used as an alternative to the WASL in mathematics, with scores set by the State Board of Education. Once the SBE has set the scores required to meet or exceed the state standard, prohibits the Board from decreasing the scores. Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, requires school districts to reimburse students who take one of these exams for use as an alternative assessment in math. Makes this provision null and void if not funded in the 2006 supplemental budget.