

SHB 1987 - S AMD TO S COMM AMD 552 (S2935.1)  
By Senators McAuliffe and Schmidt

ADOPTED 4/12/05

1 On page 1, line 22, after "review." insert the following:

2 "Sec. 2. RCW 28A.655.061 and 2004 c 19 s 101 are each amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be  
5 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities  
6 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which  
7 the student was not successful, (~~and if approved by the legislature~~  
8 ~~pursuant to subsection (11) of this section,~~) one or more objective  
9 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of  
10 state academic standards, and any appeals process. The objective  
11 alternative assessments for each content area shall be (~~comparable~~)  
12 equivalent in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must  
13 demonstrate on the Washington assessment of student learning for each  
14 content area.

15 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of  
16 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the  
17 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met  
18 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.  
19 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW  
20 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation  
21 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for  
22 graduation.

23 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception  
24 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who  
25 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics  
26 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student  
27 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a  
28 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more  
29 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,  
30 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to  
31 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully  
32 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the

1 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once  
2 objective alternative assessments are ((authorized)) implemented  
3 pursuant to subsection (11) of this section, a student may use the  
4 objective alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student  
5 successfully meets the state standards for that content area if the  
6 student has retaken the Washington assessment of student learning at  
7 least once. If the student successfully meets the state standards on  
8 the objective alternative assessments then the student shall earn a  
9 certificate of academic achievement. The student's transcript shall  
10 note whether the certificate of academic achievement was acquired by  
11 means of the Washington assessment of student learning or by an  
12 alternative assessment.

13 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, a student must  
14 meet the state standards in science in addition to the other content  
15 areas required under subsection (3) of this section on the Washington  
16 assessment of student learning or the objective alternative assessments  
17 in order to earn a certificate of academic achievement.

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

23 (6) A student may retain and use the highest result from each  
24 successfully completed content area of the high school assessment. A  
25 student may combine content area results from the Washington assessment  
26 of student learning and any subsequent retakes of the assessment and  
27 results from any alternative assessments to demonstrate achievement of  
28 state academic standards.

29 (7) Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, the highest scale  
30 score and level achieved in each content area on the high school  
31 Washington assessment of student learning shall be displayed on a  
32 student's transcript. In addition, beginning with the graduating class  
33 of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's designation on his or  
34 her transcript for each content area in which the student achieves  
35 level four the first time the student takes that content area  
36 assessment.

37 (8) Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available to  
38 students the following options:

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

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

11 (9) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the high  
12 school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall pay for  
13 retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the  
14 superintendent of public instruction.

15 (10) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall pilot  
16 opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning in the  
17 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,  
18 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be  
19 available to each school district.

20 (11)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
21 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative  
22 assessments(~~(, which may include an appeals process,)~~) for students to  
23 demonstrate achievement of the state academic standards. The objective  
24 alternative assessments shall be ((comparable)) equivalent in rigor to  
25 the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the  
26 Washington assessment of student learning and be objective in its  
27 determination of student achievement of the state standards. Before  
28 any objective alternative assessments are used by a student to  
29 demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in a content  
30 area required to obtain a certificate, the ((~~legislature shall formally~~  
31 ~~approve the use of any objective alternative assessments through the~~  
32 ~~omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution~~))  
33 superintendent of public instruction shall provide to the education  
34 committees of the legislature an opportunity to review any and all  
35 options developed and planned for implementation by January 15th of the  
36 school year before the school year planned for implementation.

37 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
38 pilot two or more alternative assessments in the 2005-06 school year,  
39 with the goal of implementing at least one alternative assessment in

1 the 2006-07 school year. The superintendent of public instruction  
2 shall direct school districts to make available for student use any  
3 alternative assessments reviewed by the education committees of the  
4 legislature and deemed adequate by the superintendent of public  
5 instruction for implementation. The implementation shall begin with  
6 options that are complete and, to the extent funds are appropriated,  
7 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall continue  
8 to develop, pilot, and implement additional alternative assessments.  
9 In its development and implementation of alternative assessments, the  
10 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall consult with  
11 parents, administrators, practicing classroom teachers including  
12 teachers in career and technical education, practicing principals,  
13 employers, tribal representatives from federally recognized tribes of  
14 Washington state and tribes that have signed the Washington state  
15 centennial accord, appropriate agencies, professional organizations,  
16 assessment experts, and other interested parties.

17 ~~(12) ((By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and~~  
18 ~~senate education committees shall obtain information and conclusions~~  
19 ~~from recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the~~  
20 ~~validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of~~  
21 ~~student learning for making individual student high school graduation~~  
22 ~~determinations))~~ The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
23 shall develop appeals processes for use by students no later than the  
24 2007-08 school year. The appeals processes shall be developed with  
25 criteria that can be consistently applied throughout the state.

26 (13) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as  
27 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are  
28 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare  
29 plans for students as provided in this subsection (13).

30 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth  
31 grade students who ~~((were not successful))~~ did not score the level of  
32 proficient or above on any or all of the content areas of the  
33 Washington assessment for student learning during the previous school  
34 year. The plan shall include the courses, competencies, and other  
35 steps needed to be taken by the student to meet state academic  
36 standards and stay on track for graduation. This requirement shall be  
37 phased in as follows:

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

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

4 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through  
5 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington  
6 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to  
7 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student  
8 was (~~unsuccessful~~) not proficient, strategies to help them improve  
9 their student's skills, and the content of the student's plan.

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

13 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year  
14 thereafter, all fifth grade students who (~~were not successful~~) did  
15 not score the level of proficient or above in one or more of the  
16 content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of student  
17 learning shall have a student learning plan.

18 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this  
19 subsection (13)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a parent  
20 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of  
21 student learning, actions the school intends to take to improve the  
22 student's skills in any content area in which the student was  
23 (~~unsuccessful~~) not proficient, and provide strategies to help them  
24 improve their student's skills.

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

28 (14) Beginning in the 2005-06 school year and every year  
29 thereafter, each public high school shall notify students and parents,  
30 in the primary language of parents to the extent practicable, of the  
31 options under the high school assessment system and any appeals  
32 processes for students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic  
33 standards.

34 (15) Beginning in the 2005-06 school year and every year  
35 thereafter, each public high school shall notify students and parents,  
36 in the primary language of parents to the extent practicable, of the  
37 different courses and programs in career and technical education and  
38 those offered through area skill centers that provide students the  
39 skills and knowledge in those content areas assessed by the high school

1 assessment system and included in the certificate of academic  
2 achievement."

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**EFFECT:** Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to pilot two or more alternative assessments and provide the Legislature an opportunity to review any alternatives before implementation. The SPI must develop an appeals process to be in place no later than the 2007-08 school year. Clarifies that student learning plans must be in place for students who do not score proficient or above on the WASL. Parents and students must be notified of the different assessment options available to demonstrate achievement of state standards as well as options through career and technical education that deliver instruction in the knowledge and skills assessed on the high school WASL.