

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6475**

59th Legislature  
2006 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 6, 2006  
YEAS 38 NAYS 8

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 3, 2006  
YEAS 96 NAYS 2

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6475** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6475**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2006 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education  
(originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Schmidt, Eide,  
Weinstein, Haugen, Berkey, Kastama, Shin, Kohl-Welles and Rasmussen;  
by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/06.

1            AN ACT Relating to authorizing alternative methods of assessment  
2 and appeal processes for the certificate of academic achievement;  
3 amending RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.305.220; adding new sections to  
4 chapter 28A.655 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28C.04 RCW; and  
5 creating new sections.

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

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

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

1 (2) Under RCW 28A.655.061, beginning in the 2006-07 school year,  
2 the superintendent of public instruction shall implement objective  
3 alternative assessment methods as provided in this section for students  
4 to demonstrate achievement of the state standards in content areas in  
5 which the student has not yet met the standard on the high school  
6 Washington assessment of student learning. A student may access an  
7 alternative if the student meets applicable eligibility criteria in RCW  
8 28A.655.061 and other eligibility criteria established by the  
9 superintendent of public instruction, including but not limited to  
10 attendance criteria and participation in the remediation or  
11 supplemental instruction contained in the student learning plan  
12 developed under RCW 28A.655.061. A school district may waive  
13 attendance and/or remediation criteria for special, unavoidable  
14 circumstances.

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

18 (4) One alternative assessment method shall be a combination of the  
19 applicant's grades in applicable courses and the applicant's highest  
20 score on the high school Washington assessment of student learning, as  
21 provided in this subsection. The superintendent of public instruction  
22 shall determine which high school courses are applicable to the  
23 alternative assessment method and shall issue guidelines to school  
24 districts.

25 (a) Using guidelines prepared by the superintendent of public  
26 instruction, a school district shall identify the group of students in  
27 the same school as the applicant who took the same high school courses  
28 as the applicant in the applicable content area. From the group of  
29 students identified in this manner, the district shall select the  
30 comparison cohort that shall be those students who met or slightly  
31 exceeded the state standard on the Washington assessment of student  
32 learning.

33 (b) The district shall compare the applicant's grades in high  
34 school courses in the applicable content area to the grades of students  
35 in the comparison cohort for the same high school courses. If the  
36 applicant's grades are equal to or above the mean grades of the  
37 comparison cohort, the applicant shall be deemed to have met the state  
38 standard on the alternative assessment.

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

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

9 (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop  
10 guidelines for the types and number of work samples in each content  
11 area that may be submitted as a collection of evidence that the  
12 applicant has met the state standard in that content area. Work  
13 samples may be collected from academic, career and technical, or  
14 remedial courses and may include performance tasks as well as written  
15 products. The superintendent shall submit the guidelines for approval  
16 by the state board of education.

17 (b) The superintendent shall develop protocols for submission of  
18 the collection of work samples that include affidavits from the  
19 applicant's teachers and school district that the samples are the work  
20 of the applicant and a requirement that a portion of the samples be  
21 prepared under the direct supervision of a classroom teacher. The  
22 superintendent shall submit the protocols for approval by the state  
23 board of education.

24 (c) The superintendent shall develop uniform scoring criteria for  
25 evaluating the collection of work samples and submit the scoring  
26 criteria for approval by the state board of education. Collections  
27 shall be scored at the state level or regionally by a panel of  
28 educators selected and trained by the superintendent to ensure  
29 objectivity, reliability, and rigor in the evaluation. An educator may  
30 not score work samples submitted by applicants from the educator's  
31 school district. If the panel awards an applicant's collection of work  
32 samples the minimum required score, the applicant shall be deemed to  
33 have met the state standard on the alternative assessment.

34 (d) Using an open and public process that includes consultation  
35 with district superintendents, school principals, and other educators,  
36 the state board of education shall consider the guidelines, protocols,  
37 scoring criteria, and other information regarding the collection of  
38 work samples submitted by the superintendent of public instruction.

1 The collection of work samples may be implemented as an alternative  
2 assessment after the state board of education has approved the  
3 guidelines, protocols, and scoring criteria and determined that the  
4 collection of work samples: (i) Will meet professionally accepted  
5 standards for a valid and reliable measure of the grade level  
6 expectations and the essential academic learning requirements; and (ii)  
7 is comparable to or exceeds the rigor of the skills and knowledge that  
8 a student must demonstrate on the Washington assessment of student  
9 learning in the applicable content area. The state board shall make an  
10 approval decision and determination no later than December 1, 2006, and  
11 thereafter may increase the required rigor of the collection of work  
12 samples.

13 (e) By September of 2006, the superintendent of public instruction  
14 shall develop informational materials for parents, teachers, and  
15 students regarding the collection of work samples and the status of its  
16 development as an alternative assessment method. The materials shall  
17 provide specific guidance regarding the type and number of work samples  
18 likely to be required, include examples of work that meets the state  
19 learning standards, and describe the scoring criteria and process for  
20 the collection. The materials shall also encourage students in the  
21 graduating class of 2008 to begin creating a collection if they believe  
22 they may seek to use the collection once it is implemented as an  
23 alternative assessment.

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

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

30 (ii) Focuses on the application of academic knowledge and skills  
31 within the program;

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

34 (iv) Is related to the essential academic learning requirements and  
35 state standards that students must meet to earn a certificate of  
36 academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement, but also  
37 represents the knowledge and skills that successful individuals in the

1 career and technical field of the approved program are expected to  
2 possess.

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

7 (c) The superintendent shall consult with community and technical  
8 colleges, employers, the work force training and education coordinating  
9 board, apprenticeship programs, and other regional and national experts  
10 in career and technical education to create an appropriate collection  
11 of work samples and other evidence of a career and technical student's  
12 knowledge and skills on the state academic standards.

13 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall study the  
14 feasibility of using existing mathematics assessments in languages  
15 other than English as an additional alternative assessment option. The  
16 study shall include an estimation of the cost of translating the tenth  
17 grade mathematics assessment into other languages and scoring the  
18 assessments should they be implemented.

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

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

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

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

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

33 The superintendent of public instruction shall develop a list of  
34 approved career and technical education programs that qualify for the  
35 objective alternative assessment for career and technical students  
36 developed under section 1 of this act. Programs on the list must meet  
37 the following minimum criteria:

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

4 (2) Require a sequenced progression of multiple courses, both  
5 exploratory and preparatory, that are vocationally intensive and  
6 rigorous; and

7 (3) Have a high potential for providing the program completer with  
8 gainful employment or entry into a postsecondary work force training  
9 program.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) By September 10, 2006, the  
11 superintendent of public instruction shall report the following, in  
12 detail, to the education committees of the legislature:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 (3) The Washington state institute for public policy shall conduct  
33 an independent and objective evaluation of the reliability, validity,  
34 and rigor of the alternative assessment methods authorized under  
35 section 1 of this act, including an examination of a representative  
36 sample of the collections of work samples submitted by the graduating  
37 classes of 2008 and 2009. The institute shall submit its findings to

1 the education committees of the legislature by September 1, 2009, to  
2 enable the legislature to develop and consider statutory changes to the  
3 alternative assessment during the 2010 legislative session.

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

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

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

24 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception  
25 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who  
26 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics  
27 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student  
28 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a  
29 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more  
30 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,  
31 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to  
32 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully  
33 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the  
34 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once  
35 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection  
36 (~~((11))~~) (10) of this section, a student may use the objective  
37 alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully



1 meets the state standards for that content area if the student has  
2 retaken the Washington assessment of student learning at least once.  
3 If the student successfully meets the state standards on the objective  
4 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of  
5 academic achievement. ~~((The student's transcript shall note whether  
6 the certificate of academic achievement was acquired by means of the  
7 Washington assessment of student learning or by an alternative  
8 assessment.))~~

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

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

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

21 ~~((Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, the highest  
22 scale score and level achieved in each content area on the high school  
23 Washington assessment of student learning shall be displayed on a  
24 student's transcript. In addition, beginning with the graduating class  
25 of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's designation on his or  
26 her transcript for each content area in which the student achieves  
27 level four the first time the student takes that content area  
28 assessment.~~

29 ~~(8))~~ Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available to  
30 students the following options:

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

34 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to  
35 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the  
36 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion  
37 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of

1 public instruction and the state board for community and technical  
2 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these  
3 programs can be assessed.

4 ~~((+9))~~ (8) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of  
5 the high school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall  
6 pay for retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the  
7 superintendent of public instruction.

8 ~~((+10))~~ (9) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall  
9 pilot opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning  
10 in the 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,  
11 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be  
12 available to each school district.

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

28 ~~((+12))~~ (b) A student's score on the mathematics portion of the  
29 preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT), the scholastic  
30 assessment test (SAT), or the American college test (ACT) may be used  
31 as an objective alternative assessment under this section for  
32 demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded the mathematics  
33 standards for the certificate of academic achievement. The state board  
34 of education shall identify the scores students must achieve on the  
35 mathematics portion of the PSAT, SAT, or ACT to meet or exceed the  
36 state standard for mathematics. The state board of education shall  
37 identify the first scores by December 1, 2006, and thereafter may

1 increase but not decrease the scores required for students to meet or  
2 exceed the state standard for mathematics.

3 (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate  
4 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from  
5 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the  
6 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of  
7 student learning for making individual student high school graduation  
8 determinations.

9 ~~((13))~~ (12) To help assure continued progress in academic  
10 achievement as a foundation for high school graduation and to assure  
11 that students are on track for high school graduation, each school  
12 district shall prepare plans for students as provided in this  
13 subsection ~~((13))~~ (12).

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

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

24 (ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every year  
25 thereafter eighth grade students as described in this subsection  
26 ~~((13))~~ (12)(a) shall have a plan.

27 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through  
28 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington  
29 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to  
30 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student  
31 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's  
32 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

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

36 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year  
37 thereafter, all fifth grade students who were not successful in one or

1 more of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of  
2 student learning shall have a student learning plan.

3 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this  
4 subsection (~~((13))~~) (12)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a  
5 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, and provide strategies to help them improve their  
9 student's skills.

10 (ii) 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 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655  
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose,  
16 school districts shall reimburse students for the cost of taking the  
17 tests in RCW 28A.655.061(10)(b) when the students take the tests for  
18 the purpose of using the mathematics results as an objective  
19 alternative assessment.

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

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

27 (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include (~~the~~)  
28 ~~following information:~~

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

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

34 ~~(c))~~ a notation of whether the student has earned a certificate of  
35 individual achievement or a certificate of academic achievement (~~by~~)

1 ~~means of the Washington assessment of student learning or by an~~  
2 ~~alternative assessment)).~~

3 (3) Transcripts are important documents to students who will apply  
4 for admission to postsecondary institutions of higher education.  
5 Transcripts are also important to students who will seek employment  
6 upon or prior to graduation from high school. It is recognized that  
7 student transcripts may be the only record available to employers in  
8 their decision-making processes regarding prospective employees. The  
9 superintendent of public instruction shall require school districts to  
10 inform annually all high school students that prospective employers may  
11 request to see transcripts and that the prospective employee's decision  
12 to release transcripts can be an important part of the process of  
13 applying for employment.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
15 act and section 5 of this act, referencing this act and section 5 of  
16 this act by bill or chapter number and section number, is not provided  
17 by June 30, 2006, in the omnibus appropriations act, section 5 of this  
18 act is null and void.

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