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**SENATE BILL 5849**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Wellman, Nobles, Boehnke, Frame, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kuderer, Nguyen, Shewmake, Trudeau, and C. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to a computer science competency graduation  
2 requirement; amending RCW 28A.655.070; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28A.230 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an  
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) Beginning with the 2029 graduating class, all students  
9 shall be required to show competency in the high school learning  
10 standards related to computer science in order to graduate from high  
11 school. Students may demonstrate this computer science competency  
12 graduation requirement through:

13 (i) Completion of a stand-alone computer science course aligned  
14 to the state learning standards;

15 (ii) Completion of a different subject matter course where the  
16 state computer science learning standards are embedded with other  
17 learning standards; or

18 (iii) A demonstration of competency of the foundational skills  
19 established in the computer science state learning standards.

20 (b) The demonstration of competency could include completion of a  
21 competency examination as established in RCW 28A.230.300 or any of

1 the options allowed by the rules adopted by the state board of  
2 education under RCW 28A.230.090 that address mastery-based crediting,  
3 such as: (i) Completing a locally established portfolio or  
4 culminating project; (ii) participating in supervised work experience  
5 or other outside school experience; (iii) taking career and technical  
6 education classes; (iv) taking courses offered by regional or  
7 community centers or programs; (v) receiving credits earned at a  
8 postsecondary institution; or (vi) providing documentation of a prior  
9 learning activity that demonstrates proficiency of the identified  
10 learning standards.

11 (c) Consideration of seat time or instructional hours is not  
12 required to demonstrate competency for purposes of this section.

13 (d) Students must be allowed to present multiple types of  
14 evidence for the demonstration of competency.

15 (2) Students in grade 12 who have not been able to show computer  
16 science competency because of previous residence outside the state  
17 may have the requirement of this section waived by their principal.

18 (3) Nothing in this section increases the number of high school  
19 credits required for graduation as established by the state board of  
20 education under RCW 28A.230.090.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of the superintendent of  
22 public instruction shall initiate a review and update of the state  
23 computer science learning standards for students in grades  
24 kindergarten through 12. In developing the update of the state  
25 computer science learning standards, the office of the superintendent  
26 of public instruction shall review computer science learning  
27 standards adopted by other states and consult with nonprofit  
28 organizations that have a demonstrated expertise in assisting states  
29 in developing computer science learning standards.

30 (2) This section expires July 1, 2026.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.070 and 2019 c 252 s 119 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop state  
34 learning standards that identify the knowledge and skills all public  
35 school students need to know and be able to do based on the student  
36 learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, develop student assessments, and  
37 implement the accountability recommendations and requests regarding  
38 assistance, rewards, and recognition of the state board of education.

1 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall:

2 (a) Periodically revise the state learning standards, as needed,  
3 based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and  
4 two shall be considered primary. To the maximum extent possible, the  
5 superintendent shall integrate (~~goal four~~) technology literacy and  
6 fluency from goal three and the knowledge and skill areas in the  
7 other goals in the state learning standards; and

8 (b) Review and prioritize the state learning standards and  
9 identify, with clear and concise descriptions, the grade level  
10 content expectations to be assessed on the statewide student  
11 assessment and used for state or federal accountability purposes. The  
12 review, prioritization, and identification shall result in more focus  
13 and targeting with an emphasis on depth over breadth in the number of  
14 grade level content expectations assessed at each grade level. Grade  
15 level content expectations shall be articulated over the grades as a  
16 sequence of expectations and performances that are logical, build  
17 with increasing depth after foundational knowledge and skills are  
18 acquired, and reflect, where appropriate, the sequential nature of  
19 the discipline. The office of the superintendent of public  
20 instruction, within seven working days, shall post on its website any  
21 grade level content expectations provided to an assessment vendor for  
22 use in constructing the statewide student assessment.

23 (3)(a) In consultation with the state board of education, the  
24 superintendent of public instruction shall maintain and continue to  
25 develop and revise a statewide academic assessment system in the  
26 content areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science for use  
27 in the elementary, middle, and high school years designed to  
28 determine if each student has mastered the state learning standards  
29 identified in subsection (1) of this section. School districts shall  
30 administer the assessments under guidelines adopted by the  
31 superintendent of public instruction. The academic assessment system  
32 may include a variety of assessment methods, including criterion-  
33 referenced and performance-based measures.

34 (b) Effective with the 2009 administration of the Washington  
35 assessment of student learning and continuing with the statewide  
36 student assessment, the superintendent shall redesign the assessment  
37 in the content areas of reading, mathematics, and science in all  
38 grades except high school by shortening test administration and  
39 reducing the number of short answer and extended response questions.

1 (c) By the 2014-15 school year, the superintendent of public  
2 instruction, in consultation with the state board of education, shall  
3 modify the statewide student assessment system to transition to  
4 assessments developed with a multistate consortium, as provided in  
5 this subsection:

6 (i) The assessments developed with a multistate consortium to  
7 assess student proficiency in English language arts and mathematics  
8 shall be administered beginning in the 2014-15 school year, and  
9 beginning with the graduating class of 2020, the assessments must be  
10 administered to students in the tenth grade. The reading and writing  
11 assessments shall not be administered by the superintendent of public  
12 instruction or schools after the 2013-14 school year.

13 (ii) The high school assessments in English language arts and  
14 mathematics in (c)(i) of this subsection shall be used for the  
15 purposes of federal and state accountability and for assessing  
16 student career and college readiness.

17 (d) The statewide academic assessment system must also include  
18 the Washington access to instruction and measurement assessment for  
19 students with significant cognitive challenges.

20 (4) If the superintendent proposes any modification to the state  
21 learning standards or the statewide assessments, then the  
22 superintendent shall, upon request, provide opportunities for the  
23 education committees of the house of representatives and the senate  
24 to review the assessments and proposed modifications to the state  
25 learning standards before the modifications are adopted.

26 (5) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results  
27 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to  
28 evaluate instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate  
29 educational support for students who have not mastered the state  
30 learning standards at the appropriate periods in the student's  
31 educational development.

32 (6) By September 2007, the results for reading and mathematics  
33 shall be reported in a format that will allow parents and teachers to  
34 determine the academic gain a student has acquired in those content  
35 areas from one school year to the next.

36 (7) To assist parents and teachers in their efforts to provide  
37 educational support to individual students, the superintendent of  
38 public instruction shall provide as much individual student  
39 performance information as possible within the constraints of the

1 assessment system's item bank. The superintendent shall also provide  
2 to school districts:

3 (a) Information on classroom-based and other assessments that may  
4 provide additional achievement information for individual students;  
5 and

6 (b) A collection of diagnostic tools that educators may use to  
7 evaluate the academic status of individual students. The tools shall  
8 be designed to be inexpensive, easily administered, and quickly and  
9 easily scored, with results provided in a format that may be easily  
10 shared with parents and students.

11 (8) To the maximum extent possible, the superintendent shall  
12 integrate knowledge and skill areas in development of the  
13 assessments.

14 (9) Assessments for goals three and four of RCW 28A.150.210 shall  
15 be integrated in the state learning standards and assessments for  
16 goals one and two.

17 (10) The superintendent shall develop assessments that are  
18 directly related to the state learning standards, and are not biased  
19 toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic  
20 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender.

21 (11) The superintendent shall review available and appropriate  
22 options for competency-based assessments that meet the state learning  
23 standards. In accordance with the review required by this subsection,  
24 the superintendent shall provide a report and recommendations to the  
25 education committees of the house of representatives and the senate  
26 by November 1, 2019.

27 (12) The superintendent shall consider methods to address the  
28 unique needs of special education students when developing the  
29 assessments under this section.

30 (13) The superintendent shall consider methods to address the  
31 unique needs of highly capable students when developing the  
32 assessments under this section.

33 (14) The superintendent shall post on the superintendent's  
34 website lists of resources and model assessments in social studies,  
35 the arts, and health and fitness.

36 (15) The superintendent shall integrate financial education  
37 skills and content knowledge into the state learning standards  
38 pursuant to RCW 28A.300.460(2)(d).

39 (16)(a) The superintendent shall notify the state board of  
40 education in writing before initiating the development or revision of

1 the state learning standards under subsections (1) and (2) of this  
2 section. The notification must be provided to the state board of  
3 education in advance for review at a regularly scheduled or special  
4 board meeting and must include the following information:

5 (i) The subject matter of the state learning standards;

6 (ii) The reason or reasons the superintendent is initiating the  
7 development or revision; and

8 (iii) The process and timeline that the superintendent intends to  
9 follow for the development or revision.

10 (b) The state board of education may provide a response to the  
11 superintendent's notification for consideration in the development or  
12 revision process in (a) of this subsection.

13 (c) Prior to adoption by the superintendent of any new or revised  
14 state learning standards, the superintendent shall submit the  
15 proposed new or revised state learning standards to the state board  
16 of education in advance in writing for review at a regularly  
17 scheduled or special board meeting. The state board of education may  
18 provide a response to the superintendent's proposal for consideration  
19 prior to final adoption.

20 (17) The state board of education may propose new or revised  
21 state learning standards to the superintendent. The superintendent  
22 must respond to the state board of education's proposal in writing.

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