

2 EHB 1708 - CONF REPT - S3456.1
3 By Conference Committee

4 ADOPTED 4/25/93

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "Sec. 1. RCW 28A.630.885 and 1992 c 141 s 202 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 ~~((2))~~ (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby
10 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify
11 what all students need to know and be able to do based on the student
12 learning goals of the governor's council on education reform and
13 funding, to develop student assessment and school accountability
14 systems, and to take other steps necessary to develop a performance-
15 based education system. The commission shall include three members of
16 the state board of education, three members appointed by the governor
17 before July 1, 1992, and ~~((three))~~ five members appointed no later than
18 ~~((February))~~ June 1, 1993, by the governor elected in the November 1992
19 election. The governor shall appoint a chair from the commission
20 members, and fill any vacancies of gubernatorial appointments that may
21 occur. The state board of education shall fill any vacancies of state
22 board of education appointments that may occur. In making the
23 appointments, educators, business leaders, and parents shall be
24 represented, and nominations from state-wide education, business, and
25 parent organizations shall be requested. Efforts shall be made to
26 ensure that the commission reflects the cultural diversity of the
27 state's K-12 student population and that the major geographic regions
28 in the state are represented. Appointees shall be qualified
29 individuals who are supportive of educational restructuring, who have
30 a positive record of service, and who will devote sufficient time to
31 the responsibilities of the commission to ensure that the objectives of
32 the commission are achieved.

33 ~~((3) The commission shall begin its substantive work subject to~~
34 ~~subsection (1) of this section.~~

35 ~~(4))~~ (2) The commission shall establish technical advisory
36 committees. Membership of the technical advisory committees shall

1 include, but not necessarily be limited to, professionals from the
2 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board
3 of education, and other state and local educational practitioners and
4 student assessment specialists.

5 ~~((+5+))~~ (3) The commission, with the assistance of the technical
6 advisory committees, shall:

7 (a) Identify what all elementary and secondary students need to
8 know and be able to do. At a minimum, these essential academic
9 learning requirements shall include reading, writing, speaking,
10 science, history, geography, mathematics, and critical thinking. In
11 developing these essential academic learning requirements, the
12 commission shall incorporate the student learning goals identified by
13 the council on education reform and funding;

14 (b) By December 1, 1995, present to the state board of education
15 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic
16 assessment system for use in the elementary grades designed to
17 determine if each student has mastered the essential academic learning
18 requirements identified in (a) of this subsection. The academic
19 assessment system shall include a variety of methodologies, including
20 performance-based measures. The assessment system shall be designed so
21 that the results under the assessment system are used by educators as
22 tools to evaluate instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate
23 educational support for students who do not master the essential
24 academic learning requirements. Mastery of each component of the
25 essential academic learning requirements shall be required before
26 students progress in subsequent components of the essential academic
27 learning requirements. The state board of education and superintendent
28 of public instruction shall implement the elementary academic
29 assessment system beginning in the 1996-97 school year, unless the
30 legislature takes action to delay or prevent implementation of the
31 assessment system and essential academic learning requirements. The
32 state board of education and superintendent of public instruction may
33 modify the academic assessment system, as needed, in subsequent school
34 years;

35 (c) By December 1, 1996, present to the state board of education
36 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic
37 assessment system for use in the secondary grades designed to determine
38 if each student has mastered the essential academic learning
39 requirements identified for secondary students in (a) of this

1 subsection. The academic assessment system shall use a variety of
2 methodologies, including performance-based measures, to determine if
3 students have mastered the essential academic learning requirements,
4 and shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The certificate of mastery
5 shall be required for graduation. The assessment system shall be
6 designed so that the results are used by educators to evaluate
7 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational
8 support for students who do not master the essential academic learning
9 requirements. The commission shall recommend to the state board of
10 education whether the certificate of mastery should take the place of
11 the graduation requirements or be required for graduation in addition
12 to graduation requirements. The state board of education and
13 superintendent of public instruction shall implement the secondary
14 academic assessment system beginning in the 1997-98 school year, unless
15 the legislature takes action to delay or prevent implementation of the
16 assessment system and essential academic learning requirements. The
17 state board of education and superintendent of public instruction may
18 modify the assessment system, as needed, in subsequent school years;

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

22 (e) Develop strategies that will assist educators in helping
23 students master the essential academic learning requirements;

24 (f) Establish a center the primary role of which is to plan,
25 implement, and evaluate a high quality professional development
26 process. The quality schools center shall: Have an advisory council
27 composed of educators, parents, and community and business leaders; use
28 best practices research regarding instruction, management, curriculum
29 development, and assessment; coordinate its activities with the office
30 of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of
31 education; employ and contract with individuals who have a commitment
32 to quality reform; prepare a six-year plan to be updated every two
33 years; and be able to accept resources and funding from private and
34 public sources;

35 (g) Develop recommendations for the repeal or amendment of federal,
36 state, and local laws, rules, budgetary language, regulations, and
37 other factors that inhibit schools from adopting strategies designed to
38 help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements;

1 (h) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,
2 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts
3 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.
4 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,
5 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost
6 of implementing the elementary and secondary academic assessment
7 systems during the 1995-97 biennium and beyond;

8 (i) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher
9 education coordinating board for adopting college and university
10 entrance requirements that would assist schools in adopting strategies
11 designed to help students achieve the essential academic learning
12 requirements;

13 (j) By December 1, 1996, recommend to the legislature, state board
14 of education, and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide
15 accountability system to evaluate accurately and fairly the level of
16 learning occurring in individual schools and school districts. The
17 commission also shall recommend to the legislature steps that should be
18 taken to assist school districts and schools in which learning is
19 significantly below expected levels of performance as measured by the
20 academic assessment systems established under this section;

21 (k) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature and the
22 state board of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations
23 of the commission; and

24 (l) Complete other tasks, as appropriate.

25 ~~((+6))~~ (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the
26 state board of education and the office of the superintendent of public
27 instruction.

28 ~~((+7))~~ (5) The commission shall seek advice broadly from the
29 public and all interested educational organizations in the conduct of
30 its work, including holding periodic regional public hearings.

31 ~~((+8))~~ (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff
32 support and the office of financial management shall contract with that
33 entity. The commission may direct the office of financial management
34 to enter into subcontracts with school districts, teachers, higher
35 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other
36 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its
37 deliberations.

38 ~~((+9))~~ (7) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for
39 travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

