
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1956

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Upthegrove, Lantz, Quall and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to educational assessments; amending RCW
2 28A.230.095; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that instruction in
5 social studies, arts, health, and fitness is important to ensure a
6 well-rounded and complete education. In particular, the civic mission
7 of schools is strengthened and enhanced by comprehensive civics
8 education and assessments. The legislature finds that effective and
9 accountable democratic government depends upon an informed and engaged
10 citizenry, and therefore, students should learn their rights and
11 responsibilities as citizens, where those rights and responsibilities
12 come from, and how to exercise them.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.095 and 2004 c 19 s 203 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) By the end of the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall
16 have in place in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools
17 assessments or other strategies to assure that students have an
18 opportunity to learn the essential academic learning requirements in

1 social studies, the arts, and health and fitness. Social studies
2 includes history, geography, civics, economics, and social studies
3 skills. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall
4 annually submit an implementation verification report to the office of
5 the superintendent of public instruction.

6 (2) Beginning with the 2006-07 school year, school districts shall
7 require students in the fourth or fifth grades, the seventh or eighth
8 grades, and the eleventh or twelfth grades to each complete at least
9 one classroom-based assessment in civics. The civics assessment shall
10 be selected from a list of classroom-based assessments approved by the
11 office of the superintendent of public instruction. Beginning with the
12 2006-07 school year, school districts shall annually submit
13 implementation verification reports to the office of the superintendent
14 of public instruction documenting the use of the classroom-based
15 assessments in civics.

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