
HOUSE BILL 1956

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, Lantz, Quall and Santos

Read first time 02/11/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to educational assessments; amending RCW
2 28A.230.095, 28A.655.070, and 28A.305.220; 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. Beginning with the
2 2008-09 school year, school districts shall annually submit an
3 implementation verification report to the office of the superintendent
4 of public instruction.

5 (2) Beginning with the 2006-07 school year, school districts shall
6 require each student in elementary, middle, and high school to complete
7 a classroom-based assessment in civics that has been approved by the
8 office of the superintendent of public instruction. The student's
9 results on the civics assessment shall be included in the student's
10 school records and, for a high school student, recorded on the
11 student's transcript.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.070 and 2004 c 19 s 204 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop
15 essential academic learning requirements that identify the knowledge
16 and skills all public school students need to know and be able to do
17 based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, develop student
18 assessments, and implement the accountability recommendations and
19 requests regarding assistance, rewards, and recognition of the academic
20 achievement and accountability commission.

21 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall:

22 (a) Periodically revise the essential academic learning
23 requirements, as needed, based on the student learning goals in RCW
24 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall be considered primary. To the
25 maximum extent possible, the superintendent shall integrate goal four
26 and the knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the essential
27 academic learning requirements; and

28 (b) Review and prioritize the essential academic learning
29 requirements and identify, with clear and concise descriptions, the
30 grade level content expectations to be assessed on the Washington
31 assessment of student learning and used for state or federal
32 accountability purposes. The review, prioritization, and
33 identification shall result in more focus and targeting with an
34 emphasis on depth over breadth in the number of grade level content
35 expectations assessed at each grade level. Grade level content
36 expectations shall be articulated over the grades as a sequence of
37 expectations and performances that are logical, build with increasing

1 depth after foundational knowledge and skills are acquired, and
2 reflect, where appropriate, the sequential nature of the discipline.
3 The office of the superintendent of public instruction, within seven
4 working days, shall post on its web site any grade level content
5 expectations provided to an assessment vendor for use in constructing
6 the Washington assessment of student learning.

7 (3) In consultation with the academic achievement and
8 accountability commission, the superintendent of public instruction
9 shall maintain and continue to develop and revise a statewide academic
10 assessment system in the content areas of reading, writing,
11 mathematics, civics, and science for use in the elementary, middle, and
12 high school years designed to determine if each student has mastered
13 the essential academic learning requirements identified in subsection
14 (1) of this section. The civics assessment shall be classroom-based
15 and may be selected by school districts from a list of classroom-based
16 assessments approved by the superintendent. School districts shall
17 administer the assessments under guidelines adopted by the
18 superintendent of public instruction. The academic assessment system
19 shall include a variety of assessment methods, including criterion-
20 referenced and performance-based measures.

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

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

33 (b) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
34 requirements in the content area of science shall be available for
35 mandatory use in middle schools and high schools by the 2003-04 school
36 year and for mandatory use in elementary schools by the 2004-05 school
37 year unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent
38 implementation of the assessment.

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

5 (7) To assist parents and teachers in their efforts to provide
6 educational support to individual students, the superintendent of
7 public instruction shall provide as much individual student performance
8 information as possible within the constraints of the assessment
9 system's item bank. The superintendent shall also provide to school
10 districts:

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

13 (b) A collection of diagnostic tools that educators may use to
14 evaluate the academic status of individual students. The tools shall
15 be designed to be inexpensive, easily administered, and quickly and
16 easily scored, with results provided in a format that may be easily
17 shared with parents and students.

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

20 (9) Assessments for goals three and four of RCW 28A.150.210 shall
21 be integrated in the essential academic learning requirements and
22 assessments for goals one and two.

23 (10) The superintendent shall develop assessments that are directly
24 related to the essential academic learning requirements, and are not
25 biased toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic
26 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender.

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

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

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

36 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.305.220 and 2004 c 19 s 108 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

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

6 (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include the
7 following information:

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

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

13 (c) A notation of whether the student has earned a certificate of
14 individual achievement or a certificate of academic achievement by
15 means of the Washington assessment of student learning or by an
16 alternative assessment; and

17 (d) The results of the student's high school civics assessment
18 under RCW 28A.230.095 and 28A.655.070.

19 (3) Transcripts are important documents to students who will apply
20 for admission to postsecondary institutions of higher education.
21 Transcripts are also important to students who will seek employment
22 upon or prior to graduation from high school. It is recognized that
23 student transcripts may be the only record available to employers in
24 their decision-making processes regarding prospective employees. The
25 superintendent of public instruction shall require school districts to
26 inform annually all high school students that prospective employers may
27 request to see transcripts and that the prospective employee's decision
28 to release transcripts can be an important part of the process of
29 applying for employment.

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