
HOUSE BILL 2041

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Woods, Talcott, Curtis and Simpson

Read first time 02/15/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to displaying Washington assessment of student
2 learning scores on high school transcripts; and amending RCW
3 28A.655.061.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2004 c 19 s 101 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

17 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
18 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
19 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met

1 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
2 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
3 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation
4 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for
5 graduation.

6 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
7 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who
8 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics
9 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student
10 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a
11 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more
12 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,
13 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to
14 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully
15 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the
16 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once
17 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection
18 (11) of this section, a student may use the objective alternative
19 assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully meets the
20 state standards for that content area if the student has retaken the
21 Washington assessment of student learning at least once. If the
22 student successfully meets the state standards on the objective
23 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of
24 academic achievement. The student's transcript shall note whether the
25 certificate of academic achievement was acquired by means of the
26 Washington assessment of student learning or by an alternative
27 assessment.

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

33 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of
34 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based
35 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private
36 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the
37 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045.

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

3 (7) Beginning with the graduating class of (~~2006~~) 2008, the
4 highest scale score and level achieved in each content area on the high
5 school Washington assessment of student learning shall be displayed on
6 a student's transcript. In addition, beginning with the graduating
7 class of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's designation on
8 his or her transcript for each content area in which the student
9 achieves level four the first time the student takes that content area
10 assessment.

11 (8) Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available to
12 students the following options:

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

16 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
17 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
18 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion
19 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of
20 public instruction and the state board for community and technical
21 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these
22 programs can be assessed.

23 (9) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the high
24 school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall pay for
25 retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the
26 superintendent of public instruction.

27 (10) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall pilot
28 opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning in the
29 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,
30 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be
31 available to each school district.

32 (11) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
33 develop options for implementing objective alternative assessments,
34 which may include an appeals process, for students to demonstrate
35 achievement of the state academic standards. The objective alternative
36 assessments shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and knowledge
37 that the student must demonstrate on the Washington assessment of
38 student learning and be objective in its determination of student

1 achievement of the state standards. Before any objective alternative
2 assessments are used by a student to demonstrate that the student has
3 met the state standards in a content area required to obtain a
4 certificate, the legislature shall formally approve the use of any
5 objective alternative assessments through the omnibus appropriations
6 act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

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

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

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

24 (i) Beginning no later than the 2004-05 school year ninth grade
25 students as described in this subsection (13)(a) shall have a plan.

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

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

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

1 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year
2 thereafter, all fifth grade students who were not successful in one or
3 more of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of
4 student learning shall have a student learning plan.

5 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this
6 subsection (13)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a parent
7 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of
8 student learning, actions the school intends to take to improve the
9 student's skills in any content area in which the student was
10 unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their
11 student's skills.

12 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
13 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the
14 plan made as necessary.

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