
HOUSE BILL 2293

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Williams, Serben, Hasegawa, Fromhold, Darneille, Moeller, Kirby, Linville, Simpson, Chase, Green, P. Sullivan, Quall, Kagi, Ormsby, Hunt, Cox, Buri, Haler, Appleton, Morrell, Kenney and Santos

Read first time 03/16/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing information regarding results of the
2 Washington assessment of student learning on high school transcripts;
3 and amending RCW 28A.305.220 and 28A.655.061.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.305.220 and 2004 c 19 s 108 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

12 (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include the
13 following information:

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

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

1 (~~(e)~~) (b) A notation of whether the student has earned a
2 certificate of individual achievement or a certificate of academic
3 achievement by means of the Washington assessment of student learning
4 or by an alternative assessment.

5 (3) Transcripts are important documents to students who will apply
6 for admission to postsecondary institutions of higher education.
7 Transcripts are also important to students who will seek employment
8 upon or prior to graduation from high school. It is recognized that
9 student transcripts may be the only record available to employers in
10 their decision-making processes regarding prospective employees. The
11 superintendent of public instruction shall require school districts to
12 inform annually all high school students that prospective employers may
13 request to see transcripts and that the prospective employee's decision
14 to release transcripts can be an important part of the process of
15 applying for employment.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2004 c 19 s 101 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
19 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities
20 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which
21 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature
22 pursuant to subsection (11) of this section, one or more objective
23 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of
24 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for
25 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
26 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
27 assessment of student learning for each content area.

28 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
29 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
30 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
31 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
32 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
33 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation
34 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for
35 graduation.

36 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
37 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who

1 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics
2 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student
3 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a
4 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more
5 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,
6 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to
7 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully
8 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the
9 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once
10 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection
11 (11) of this section, a student may use the objective alternative
12 assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully meets the
13 state standards for that content area if the student has retaken the
14 Washington assessment of student learning at least once. If the
15 student successfully meets the state standards on the objective
16 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of
17 academic achievement. The student's transcript shall note whether the
18 certificate of academic achievement was acquired by means of the
19 Washington assessment of student learning or by an alternative
20 assessment.

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

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

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

33 (7) Beginning (~~with the graduating class of 2006, the highest~~
34 ~~scale score and level achieved in each content area on the high school~~
35 ~~Washington assessment of student learning shall be displayed on a~~
36 ~~student's transcript. In addition, beginning~~) with the graduating
37 class of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's designation on

1 his or her transcript for each content area in which the student
2 achieves level four the first time the student takes that content area
3 assessment.

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

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

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

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

20 (10) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall pilot
21 opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning in the
22 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,
23 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be
24 available to each school district.

25 (11) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
26 develop options for implementing objective alternative assessments,
27 which may include an appeals process, for students to demonstrate
28 achievement of the state academic standards. The objective alternative
29 assessments shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and knowledge
30 that the student must demonstrate on the Washington assessment of
31 student learning and be objective in its determination of student
32 achievement of the state standards. Before any objective alternative
33 assessments are used by a student to demonstrate that the student has
34 met the state standards in a content area required to obtain a
35 certificate, the legislature shall formally approve the use of any
36 objective alternative assessments through the omnibus appropriations
37 act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

1 (12) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate
2 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from
3 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the
4 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of
5 student learning for making individual student high school graduation
6 determinations.

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

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

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

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

23 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through
24 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
25 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
26 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
27 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's
28 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

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

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

36 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this
37 subsection (13)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a parent
38 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of

1 student learning, actions the school intends to take to improve the
2 student's skills in any content area in which the student was
3 unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their
4 student's skills.

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

--- END ---