

---

HOUSE BILL 3217

---

State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Quall and Santos

Read first time 01/25/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to creating a certificate for students who meet  
2 certain high school graduation requirements; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28A.600 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The high school graduating class of 2008  
6 will be the first class that must pass the Washington assessment of  
7 student learning or an alternative assessment to earn the certificate  
8 of academic achievement required to obtain a high school diploma.  
9 However, the Washington assessment of student learning is not the only  
10 graduation requirement students must meet. While some students may  
11 need additional time beyond twelfth grade to pass the assessment, the  
12 legislature finds that it is important to recognize and celebrate the  
13 successes of students in meeting other graduation requirements.  
14 Therefore, the legislature intends to create a certificate to honor  
15 students' accomplishments while encouraging them to continue working  
16 toward a high school diploma.

17            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
18 RCW to read as follows:

1           (1) Beginning with the high school graduating class of 2008, a  
2 school district has the option to award a certificate of attainment to  
3 students who meet the criteria under this section. The certificate of  
4 attainment is not the equivalent of a high school diploma, but enables  
5 students to participate in commencement ceremonies.

6           (2) To be eligible for a certificate of attainment, a student must:

7           (a) Meet all state and local high school graduation requirements  
8 except for obtaining a certificate of academic achievement under RCW  
9 28A.655.061 or a certificate of individual achievement under RCW  
10 28A.155.045;

11           (b) Have retaken the Washington assessment of student learning at  
12 least once;

13           (c) Maintain at least a ninety percent attendance level during the  
14 senior year of high school, except that the school district  
15 superintendent may waive this requirement if the student provides  
16 documentation of circumstances such as illness that warrant this  
17 waiver; and

18           (d) Meet with counselors and teachers to update the student's high  
19 school and beyond plan.

--- END ---