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SENATE BILL 5359

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Brandland, Rasmussen, Hargrove, Sheldon, Fairley, Berkey, Benson, Delvin and Mulliken

Read first time 01/21/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to school improvement goals reporting; and amending  
2 RCW 28A.655.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.030 and 2004 c 19 s 205 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The powers and duties of the academic achievement and  
7 accountability commission shall include, but are not limited to the  
8 following:

9 (1) For purposes of statewide accountability, the commission shall:

10 (a) Adopt and revise performance improvement goals in reading,  
11 writing, science, and mathematics by subject and grade level as the  
12 commission deems appropriate to improve student learning, once  
13 assessments in these subjects are required statewide. The goals shall  
14 be consistent with student privacy protection provisions of RCW  
15 28A.655.090(7) and shall not conflict with requirements contained in  
16 Title I of the federal elementary and secondary education act of 1965,  
17 as amended. The goals may be established for all students,  
18 economically disadvantaged students, limited English proficient  
19 students, students with disabilities, and students from

1 disproportionately academically underachieving racial and ethnic  
2 backgrounds. Assessment scores for students who transfer into a school  
3 or school district after January 1st in the year in which the  
4 assessment is taken shall be counted with the scores from the school or  
5 school district from which the student transferred. The commission may  
6 establish school and school district goals addressing high school  
7 graduation rates and dropout reduction goals for students in grades  
8 seven through twelve. The commission shall adopt the goals by rule.  
9 However, before each goal is implemented, the commission shall present  
10 the goal to the education committees of the house of representatives  
11 and the senate for the committees' review and comment in a time frame  
12 that will permit the legislature to take statutory action on the goal  
13 if such action is deemed warranted by the legislature;

14 (b) Identify the scores students must achieve in order to meet the  
15 standard on the Washington assessment of student learning and, for high  
16 school students, to obtain a certificate of academic achievement. The  
17 commission shall also determine student scores that identify levels of  
18 student performance below and beyond the standard. The commission  
19 shall consider the incorporation of the standard error of measurement  
20 into the decision regarding the award of the certificates. The  
21 commission shall set such performance standards and levels in  
22 consultation with the superintendent of public instruction and after  
23 consideration of any recommendations that may be developed by any  
24 advisory committees that may be established for this purpose. The  
25 initial performance standards and any changes recommended by the  
26 commission in the performance standards for the tenth grade assessment  
27 shall be presented to the education committees of the house of  
28 representatives and the senate by November 30th of the school year in  
29 which the changes will take place to permit the legislature to take  
30 statutory action before the changes are implemented if such action is  
31 deemed warranted by the legislature. The legislature shall be advised  
32 of the initial performance standards and any changes made to the  
33 elementary level performance standards and the middle school level  
34 performance standards;

35 (c) Adopt objective, systematic criteria to identify successful  
36 schools and school districts and recommend to the superintendent of  
37 public instruction schools and districts to be recognized for two types

1 of accomplishments, student achievement and improvements in student  
2 achievement. Recognition for improvements in student achievement shall  
3 include consideration of one or more of the following accomplishments:

4 (i) An increase in the percent of students meeting standards. The  
5 level of achievement required for recognition may be based on the  
6 achievement goals established by the legislature and by the commission  
7 under (a) of this subsection;

8 (ii) Positive progress on an improvement index that measures  
9 improvement in all levels of the assessment; and

10 (iii) Improvements despite challenges such as high levels of  
11 mobility, poverty, English as a second language learners, and large  
12 numbers of students in special populations as measured by either the  
13 percent of students meeting the standard, or the improvement index.

14 When determining the baseline year or years for recognizing  
15 individual schools, the commission may use the assessment results from  
16 the initial years the assessments were administered, if doing so with  
17 individual schools would be appropriate;

18 (d) Adopt objective, systematic criteria to identify schools and  
19 school districts in need of assistance and those in which significant  
20 numbers of students persistently fail to meet state standards. In its  
21 deliberations, the commission shall consider the use of all statewide  
22 mandated criterion-referenced and norm-referenced standardized tests;

23 (e) Identify schools and school districts in which state  
24 intervention measures will be needed and a range of appropriate  
25 intervention strategies, beginning no earlier than June 30, 2001, and  
26 after the legislature has authorized a set of intervention strategies.  
27 Beginning no earlier than June 30, 2001, and after the legislature has  
28 authorized a set of intervention strategies, at the request of the  
29 commission, the superintendent shall intervene in the school or school  
30 district and take corrective actions. This chapter does not provide  
31 additional authority for the commission or the superintendent of public  
32 instruction to intervene in a school or school district;

33 (f) Identify performance incentive systems that have improved or  
34 have the potential to improve student achievement;

35 (g) Annually review the assessment reporting system to ensure  
36 fairness, accuracy, timeliness, and equity of opportunity, especially  
37 with regard to schools with special circumstances and unique

1 populations of students, and a recommendation to the superintendent of  
2 public instruction of any improvements needed to the system;

3 (h) Annually report by December 1st to the legislature, the  
4 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board  
5 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the  
6 commission. The report may include recommendations of actions to help  
7 improve student achievement;

8 (i) By December 1, 2000, and by December 1st annually thereafter,  
9 report to the education committees of the house of representatives and  
10 the senate on the progress that has been made in achieving goals  
11 adopted by the commission;

12 (j) Coordinate its activities with the state board of education and  
13 the office of the superintendent of public instruction;

14 (k) Seek advice from the public and all interested educational  
15 organizations in the conduct of its work; and

16 (1) Establish advisory committees, which may include persons who  
17 are not members of the commission;

18 (2) Holding meetings and public hearings, which may include  
19 regional meetings and hearings;

20 (3) Hiring necessary staff and determining the staff's duties and  
21 compensation. However, the office of the superintendent of public  
22 instruction shall provide staff support to the commission until the  
23 commission has hired its own staff, and shall provide most of the  
24 technical assistance and logistical support needed by the commission  
25 thereafter. The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
26 shall be the fiscal agent for the commission. The commission may  
27 direct the office of the superintendent of public instruction to enter  
28 into subcontracts, within the commission's resources, with school  
29 districts, teachers, higher education faculty, state agencies, business  
30 organizations, and other individuals and organizations to assist the  
31 commission in its deliberations; and

32 (4) Receiving per diem and travel allowances as permitted under RCW  
33 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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