

---

HOUSE BILL 1618

---

State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Priest, Morrell, Haigh and Hunter

Read first time 01/24/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to aligning standards for high school graduation,  
2 college readiness, and college admission; amending 2006 c 263 s 405  
3 (uncodified); and creating new sections.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that too many students  
6 graduate from high school unprepared for college or entrance into the  
7 workforce. There is no clear relation between the coursework required  
8 for a high school diploma and the skills and knowledge needed to  
9 succeed in college, whether the college program is academic or  
10 technical in nature. There is also no common standard among the  
11 state's two and four-year institutions of higher education as to what  
12 constitutes readiness for college-level work as opposed to placement in  
13 remedial courses. Therefore the legislature intends to direct the  
14 responsible state agencies to work together to define and align  
15 standards for high school graduation, college readiness, and college  
16 admission.

17            **Sec. 2.** 2006 c 263 s 405 (uncodified) is amended to read as  
18 follows:

1 (1) The state board of education shall develop and propose a  
2 revised definition of the (~~purpose and~~) expectations for high school  
3 diplomas issued by public schools in Washington state. The revised  
4 definition shall (~~address whether attainment of a high school diploma~~  
5 ~~is intended to~~) signify that a student is ready for success in  
6 college(~~(,)~~) as well as ready for successful and gainful employment in  
7 the workplace(~~(, or some combination of these and other objectives)~~).  
8 In addition to identifying necessary courses and course content, the  
9 revised definition shall (~~focus on~~) address the knowledge, skills,  
10 and abilities that students are expected to (~~demonstrate~~) achieve to  
11 receive a high school diploma, as well as the various methods to be  
12 used to measure student performance(~~(, rather than focusing on courses,~~  
13 ~~credits, seat time, and test scores)~~). The board shall recommend  
14 college preparatory and career and technical pathways of equal rigor  
15 for students to obtain a diploma. The board shall also recommend  
16 enhancements to the college preparatory and career and technical  
17 pathways for highly capable students.

18 (2) (~~In developing the revised definition of the high school~~  
19 ~~diploma,~~) The state board of education shall examine options for  
20 creating endorsements on the standard diploma or creating honors  
21 diplomas for students who successfully complete an advanced college  
22 preparatory pathway or an advanced career and technical education  
23 pathway.

24 (3) The state board of education shall consult with educators,  
25 parents, institutions of higher education, employers, and community  
26 leaders. The board shall also work with the state board for community  
27 and technical colleges, the higher education coordinating board, and  
28 the workforce training and education coordinating board.

29 (~~(+3)~~) (4) The state board of education shall submit the proposed  
30 revised definition of the high school diploma, recommended pathways for  
31 students to obtain the diploma, and recommendations regarding  
32 endorsements or honors diplomas, along with any necessary revisions to  
33 state statutes and rules, to the education committees of the  
34 legislature by December 1, 2007.

35 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The higher education coordinating board and  
36 the state board for community and technical colleges, in consultation  
37 with the public four-year institutions of higher education, shall

1 develop common college placement tests, one each in the areas of  
2 mathematics and English. The boards shall also set common cutoff  
3 scores for determining student qualifications for college-level  
4 coursework in mathematics and English. All public two and four-year  
5 institutions of higher education shall use the common college placement  
6 tests and the common cutoff scores when determining student  
7 qualifications for college-level coursework in mathematics and English.  
8 The tests and scores shall be developed and implemented by the  
9 beginning of the 2008-09 academic year.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The higher education coordinating board, in  
11 consultation with the state board of education, the state board for  
12 community and technical colleges, and the public four-year institutions  
13 of higher education, shall examine and revise minimum admissions  
14 standards for four-year institutions of higher education so that the  
15 standards are aligned with state minimum high school graduation  
16 requirements and aligned with the standards and expectations for  
17 college readiness, particularly in core academic subjects such as math,  
18 science, and English. Revised minimum admissions standards shall be  
19 implemented no later than September 1, 2008.

--- END ---