
HOUSE BILL 3299

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall and Santos

Read first time 01/29/08. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to mathematics graduation requirements; amending
2 RCW 28A.305.215 and 28A.230.090; creating a new section; and declaring
3 an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that mathematics
6 education in Washington is in a state of flux. There is ongoing
7 discussion about revisions to the mathematics academic learning
8 standards, which drive both instruction and assessment in mathematics.
9 There is also ongoing debate about the level and content of mathematics
10 that all high school students need to earn a diploma, including both
11 students who seek a four-year baccalaureate degree and those who seek
12 other equally valuable educational and career pathways. Furthermore,
13 a recent survey by the professional educator standards board found a
14 need for at least four hundred fifty additional mathematics teachers if
15 a third credit of mathematics is required for graduation. Efforts to
16 recruit and train new teachers are underway, but will take time to
17 produce a sufficient corps of teachers to meet demand. Therefore, the
18 legislature finds that directing the state board of education
19 immediately to add a third credit of mathematics to graduation

1 requirements is premature. More debate and discussion is needed of the
2 short-term and long-term implications on students and schools.
3 Furthermore, the legislature finds that the implications are
4 significant enough to warrant that the final decision be formally
5 approved by the legislature rather than being delegated to the state
6 board of education.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.305.215 and 2007 c 396 s 1 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) The activities in this section revise and strengthen the state
10 learning standards that implement the goals of RCW 28A.150.210, known
11 as the essential academic learning requirements, and improve alignment
12 of school district curriculum to the standards.

13 (2) The state board of education shall be assisted in its work
14 under subsections (3) and (5) of this section by: (a) An expert
15 national consultant in each of mathematics and science retained by the
16 state board; and (b) the mathematics and science advisory panels
17 created under RCW 28A.305.219, as appropriate, which shall provide
18 review and formal comment on proposed recommendations to the
19 superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education
20 on new revised standards and curricula.

21 (3) By September 30, 2007, the state board of education shall
22 recommend to the superintendent of public instruction revised essential
23 academic learning requirements and grade level expectations in
24 mathematics. The recommendations shall be based on:

25 (a) Considerations of clarity, rigor, content, depth, coherence
26 from grade to grade, specificity, accessibility, and measurability;

27 (b) Study of:

28 (i) Standards used in countries whose students demonstrate high
29 performance on the trends in international mathematics and science
30 study and the programme for international student assessment;

31 (ii) College readiness standards;

32 (iii) The national council of teachers of mathematics focal points
33 and the national assessment of educational progress content frameworks;
34 and

35 (iv) Standards used by three to five other states, including
36 California, and the nation of Singapore; and

1 (c) Consideration of information presented during public comment
2 periods.

3 (4) By January 31, 2008, the superintendent of public instruction
4 shall revise the essential academic learning requirements and the grade
5 level expectations for mathematics and present the revised standards to
6 the state board of education and the education committees of the senate
7 and the house of representatives as required by RCW 28A.655.070(4).
8 The superintendent shall adopt the revised essential academic learning
9 requirements and grade level expectations unless otherwise directed by
10 the legislature during the 2008 legislative session.

11 (5) By June 30, 2008, the state board of education shall recommend
12 to the superintendent of public instruction revised essential academic
13 learning requirements and grade level expectations in science. The
14 recommendations shall be based on:

15 (a) Considerations of clarity, rigor, content, depth, coherence
16 from grade to grade, specificity, accessibility, and measurability;

17 (b) Study of standards used by three to five other states and in
18 countries whose students demonstrate high performance on the trends in
19 international mathematics and science study and the programme for
20 international student assessment; and

21 (c) Consideration of information presented during public comment
22 periods.

23 (6) By December 1, 2008, the superintendent of public instruction
24 shall revise the essential academic learning requirements and the grade
25 level expectations for science and present the revised standards to the
26 state board of education and the education committees of the senate and
27 the house of representatives as required by RCW 28A.655.070(4). The
28 superintendent shall adopt the revised essential academic learning
29 requirements and grade level expectations unless otherwise directed by
30 the legislature during the 2009 legislative session.

31 (7)(a) By May 15, 2008, the superintendent of public instruction
32 shall present to the state board of education recommendations for no
33 more than three basic mathematics curricula each for elementary,
34 middle, and high school grade spans.

35 (b) By June 30, 2008, the state board of education shall provide
36 official comment and recommendations to the superintendent of public
37 instruction regarding the recommended mathematics curricula. The

1 superintendent of public instruction shall make any changes based on
2 the comment and recommendations from the state board of education and
3 adopt the recommended curricula.

4 (c) By May 15, 2009, the superintendent of public instruction shall
5 present to the state board of education recommendations for no more
6 than three basic science curricula each for elementary, middle, and
7 high school grade spans.

8 (d) By June 30, 2009, the state board of education shall provide
9 official comment and recommendations to the superintendent of public
10 instruction regarding the recommended science curricula. The
11 superintendent of public instruction shall make any changes based on
12 the comment and recommendations from the state board of education and
13 adopt the recommended curricula.

14 (e) In selecting the recommended curricula under this subsection
15 (7), the superintendent of public instruction shall provide information
16 to the mathematics and science advisory panels created under RCW
17 28A.305.219, as appropriate, and seek the advice of the appropriate
18 panel regarding the curricula that shall be included in the
19 recommendations.

20 (f) The recommended curricula under this subsection (7) shall align
21 with the revised essential academic learning requirements and grade
22 level expectations. In addition to the recommended basic curricula,
23 appropriate diagnostic and supplemental materials shall be identified
24 as necessary to support each curricula.

25 (g) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose and availability
26 of the curricula, at least one of the curricula in each grade span and
27 in each of mathematics and science shall be available to schools and
28 parents online at no cost to the school or parent.

29 (8) By (~~December 1, 2007~~) January 1, 2009, the state board of
30 education shall (~~revise~~) recommend whether the high school graduation
31 requirements under RCW 28A.230.090 (~~to~~) should include a minimum of
32 three credits of mathematics, one of which may be a career and
33 technical course equivalent in mathematics, and (~~prescribe~~) recommend
34 the mathematics content in (~~the three~~) required credits. The
35 recommendations of the state board shall be forwarded to the governor
36 and the education committees of the legislature. After the effective
37 date of this section, any additional mathematics credits required for

1 high school graduation and any changes in the required content in those
2 credits shall take effect only if formally approved by the legislature
3 through the omnibus appropriations act or statute.

4 (9) Nothing in this section requires a school district to use one
5 of the recommended curricula under subsection (7) of this section.
6 However, the statewide accountability plan adopted by the state board
7 of education under RCW 28A.305.130 shall recommend conditions under
8 which school districts should be required to use one of the recommended
9 curricula. The plan shall also describe the conditions for exception
10 to the curriculum requirement, such as the use of integrated academic
11 and career and technical education curriculum. Required use of the
12 recommended curricula as an intervention strategy must be authorized by
13 the legislature as required by RCW 28A.305.130(4)(e) before
14 implementation.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2006 c 114 s 3 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
18 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except those
19 equivalencies established by local high schools or school districts
20 under RCW 28A.230.097, and except as provided in RCW 28A.305.215(8).

21 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
22 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including
23 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
24 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

25 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW
26 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements
27 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
28 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

29 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's
30 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan
31 shall remain at the local level.

32 (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of
33 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
34 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
35 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
36 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board. The
37 state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements for students

1 enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and technical
2 education programs, particularly those programs that lead to a
3 certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized. The
4 purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in these
5 programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of academic
6 achievement, complete the program and earn the program's certificate or
7 credential, and complete other state and local graduation requirements.
8 The board shall (~~reports—[report]~~) report its findings and
9 recommendations for additional flexibility in graduation requirements,
10 if necessary, to the legislature by December 1, 2007.

11 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other
12 than English established by the state board of education or a local
13 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,
14 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or
15 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied
16 the state or local school district graduation requirement for
17 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

18 (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student
19 who has completed high school courses before attending high school
20 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling
21 high school graduation requirements if:

22 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
23 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth
24 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
25 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
26 students enrolled in the class; or

27 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for
28 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high
29 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course
30 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school
31 district board of directors.

32 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school
33 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall
34 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform
35 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

36 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three
37 semester hours equals one high school credit.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 immediately.

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