
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5891

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Zeiger and Conway

Read first time 03/16/17. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to delaying the use of the high school science
2 assessment as a graduation prerequisite; amending RCW 28A.655.061;
3 creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 42 s 2 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not
8 be limited to the statewide student assessment, opportunities for a
9 student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which the
10 student was not successful, and, if approved by the legislature
11 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, one or more objective
12 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of
13 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for
14 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
15 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the statewide student
16 assessment for each content area.

17 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
18 academic achievement shall be obtained and is evidence that the
19 students have successfully met the state standard in the content
20 areas included in the certificate. With the exception of students
21 satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045 or 28A.655.0611,

1 acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation from a
2 public high school but is not the only requirement for graduation.

3 (3)(a) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008 through the
4 graduating class of 2015, with the exception of students satisfying
5 the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who meets the state
6 standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics high school
7 statewide student assessment shall earn a certificate of academic
8 achievement. The mathematics assessment shall be the end-of-course
9 assessment for the first year of high school mathematics that
10 assesses the standards common to algebra I and integrated mathematics
11 I or the end-of-course assessment for the second year of high school
12 mathematics that assesses standards common to geometry and integrated
13 mathematics II.

14 (b) As the state transitions from reading and writing assessments
15 to an English language arts assessment and from end-of-course
16 assessments to a comprehensive assessment for high school
17 mathematics, a student in a graduating class of 2016 through 2018
18 shall earn a certificate of academic achievement if the student meets
19 the state standard as follows:

20 (i) Students in the graduating class of 2016 may use the results
21 from:

22 (A) The reading and writing assessment or the English language
23 arts assessment developed with the multistate consortium; and

24 (B) The end-of-course assessment for the first year of high
25 school mathematics, the end-of-course assessment for the second year
26 of high school mathematics, or the comprehensive mathematics
27 assessment developed with the multistate consortium.

28 (ii) Students in the graduating classes of 2017 and 2018 may use
29 the results from:

30 (A) The tenth grade English language arts assessment developed by
31 the superintendent of public instruction using resources from the
32 multistate consortium or the English language arts assessment
33 developed with the multistate consortium; and

34 (B) The end-of-course assessment for the first year of high
35 school mathematics, the end-of-course assessment for the second year
36 of high school mathematics, or the comprehensive mathematics
37 assessment developed with the multistate consortium.

38 (c) Beginning with the graduating class of 2019, a student who
39 meets the state standards on the high school English language arts
40 assessment developed with the multistate consortium and the

1 comprehensive mathematics assessment developed with the multistate
2 consortium shall earn a certificate of academic achievement.

3 (d) If a student does not successfully meet the state standards
4 in one or more content areas required for the certificate of academic
5 achievement, then the student may retake the assessment in the
6 content area at least twice a year at no cost to the student. If the
7 student successfully meets the state standards on a retake of the
8 assessment then the student shall earn a certificate of academic
9 achievement. Once objective alternative assessments are authorized
10 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, a student may use the
11 objective alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student
12 successfully meets the state standards for that content area if the
13 student has taken the statewide student assessment at least once. If
14 the student successfully meets the state standards on the objective
15 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of
16 academic achievement.

17 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of ((2017)) 2021, a
18 student must meet the state standards in science in addition to the
19 other content areas required under subsection (3) of this section on
20 the statewide student assessment, a retake, or the objective
21 alternative assessments in order to earn a certificate of academic
22 achievement. The assessment under this subsection must be a
23 comprehensive assessment of the science essential academic learning
24 requirements adopted by the superintendent of public instruction in
25 2013.

26 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition
27 of the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based
28 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in
29 private schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying
30 the 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) School districts must make available to students the
34 following options:

35 (a) To retake the statewide student assessment at least twice a
36 year in the content areas in which the student did not meet the state
37 standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

38 (b) To retake the statewide student assessment at least twice a
39 year in the content areas in which the student did not meet the state
40 standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion

1 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of
2 public instruction and the state board for community and technical
3 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these
4 programs can be assessed.

5 (8) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the
6 high school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall
7 pay for retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by
8 the superintendent of public instruction.

9 (9) Opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year
10 shall be available to each school district.

11 (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
12 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative
13 assessments, which may include an appeals process for students'
14 scores, for students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic
15 standards. The objective alternative assessments shall be comparable
16 in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must
17 demonstrate on the statewide student assessment and be objective in
18 its determination of student achievement of the state standards.
19 Before any objective alternative assessments in addition to those
20 authorized in RCW 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a
21 student to demonstrate that the student has met the state standards
22 in a content area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature
23 shall formally approve the use of any objective alternative
24 assessments through the omnibus appropriations act or by statute or
25 concurrent resolution.

26 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English,
27 or writing portion of the SAT or the ACT may be used as an objective
28 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
29 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate
30 of academic achievement. The state board of education shall identify
31 the scores students must achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT
32 or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard in the relevant content
33 area on the statewide student assessment. A student's score on the
34 science portion of the ACT or the science subject area tests of the
35 SAT may be used as an objective alternative assessment under this
36 section as soon as the state board of education determines that
37 sufficient data is available to identify reliable equivalent scores
38 for the science content area of the statewide student assessment.
39 After the first scores are established, the state board may increase

1 but not decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed
2 the state standards.

3 (ii) A student who scores at least a three on the grading scale
4 of one to five for selected AP examinations may use the score as an
5 objective alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating
6 that a student has met or exceeded state standards for the
7 certificate of academic achievement. A score of three on the AP
8 examinations in calculus or statistics may be used as an alternative
9 assessment for the mathematics portion of the statewide student
10 assessment. A score of three on the AP examinations in English
11 language and composition may be used as an alternative assessment for
12 the writing portion of the statewide student assessment; and for the
13 English language arts portion of the assessment developed with the
14 multistate consortium, once established in the 2014-15 school year. A
15 score of three on the AP examinations in English literature and
16 composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United
17 States history, world history, United States government and politics,
18 or comparative government and politics may be used as an alternative
19 assessment for the reading portion of the statewide student
20 assessment; and for the English language arts portion of the
21 assessment developed with the multistate consortium, once established
22 in the 2014-15 school year. A score of three on the AP examination in
23 biology, physics, chemistry, or environmental science may be used as
24 an alternative assessment for the science portion of the statewide
25 student assessment.

26 (iii) A student who scores at least a four on selected externally
27 administered international baccalaureate (IB) examinations may use
28 the score as an objective alternative assessment under this section
29 for demonstrating that the student has met or exceeded state
30 standards for the certificate of academic achievement. A score of
31 four on the higher level IB examinations for any of the IB English
32 language and literature courses or for any of the IB individuals and
33 societies courses may be used as an alternative assessment for the
34 reading, writing, or English language arts portions of the statewide
35 student assessment. A score of four on the higher level IB
36 examinations for any of the IB mathematics courses may be used as an
37 alternative assessment for the mathematics portion of the statewide
38 student assessment. A score of four on the higher level IB
39 examinations for IB biology, chemistry, or physics may be used as an

1 alternative assessment for the science portion of the statewide
2 student assessment.

3 (11) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
4 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students
5 are on track for high school graduation, each school district shall
6 prepare plans for and notify students and their parents or legal
7 guardians as provided in this subsection. Student learning plans are
8 required for eighth grade students who were not successful on any or
9 all of the content areas of the state assessment during the previous
10 school year or who may not be on track to graduate due to credit
11 deficiencies or absences. The parent or legal guardian shall be
12 notified about the information in the student learning plan,
13 preferably through a parent conference and at least annually. To the
14 extent feasible, schools serving English language learner students
15 and their parents shall translate the plan into the primary language
16 of the family. The plan shall include the following information as
17 applicable:

- 18 (a) The student's results on the state assessment;
- 19 (b) If the student is in the transitional bilingual program, the
20 score on his or her Washington language proficiency test II;
- 21 (c) Any credit deficiencies;
- 22 (d) The student's attendance rates over the previous two years;
- 23 (e) The student's progress toward meeting state and local
24 graduation requirements;
- 25 (f) The courses, competencies, and other steps needed to be taken
26 by the student to meet state academic standards and stay on track for
27 graduation;
- 28 (g) Remediation strategies and alternative education options
29 available to students, including informing students of the option to
30 continue to receive instructional services after grade twelve or
31 until the age of twenty-one;
- 32 (h) The alternative assessment options available to students
33 under this section and RCW 28A.655.065;
- 34 (i) School district programs, high school courses, and career and
35 technical education options available for students to meet graduation
36 requirements; and
- 37 (j) Available programs offered through skill centers or community
38 and technical colleges, including the college high school diploma
39 options under RCW 28B.50.535.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act applies to students in the
2 graduating class of 2017 and subsequent graduating classes.

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

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