
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1621

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Ybarra, Steele, Santos, Harris, Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, and Jenkins; by request of Professional Educator Standards Board)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to basic skills assessments for approved teacher
2 preparation programs; and amending RCW 28A.410.220.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.410.220 and 2013 c 193 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) (a) ~~((Beginning not later than September 1, 2001,))~~ The
7 Washington professional educator standards board shall make available
8 ~~((and pilot))~~ a means of assessing an applicant's knowledge in the
9 basic skills. For the purposes of this section, "basic skills" means
10 the subjects of at least reading, writing, and mathematics.
11 ~~((Beginning September 1, 2002, except as provided in (c) and (d) of
12 this subsection and subsection (4) of this section, passing))~~ An
13 applicant must take this basic skills assessment ~~((shall be
14 required)),~~ or an alternative or equivalent basic skills assessment
15 as determined by the Washington professional educator standards
16 board, and report the individual results to the Washington
17 professional educator standards board and an approved teacher
18 preparation program, for admission to the approved teacher
19 preparation program ~~((s and for persons from out-of-state applying for
20 a Washington state residency teaching certificate))~~.

1 (b) ~~((On))~~ An ~~((individual student basis,))~~ approved teacher
2 preparation program~~((s))~~ may ~~((admit into their programs a candidate~~
3 ~~who has not achieved the minimum basic skills assessment score~~
4 ~~established))~~ use the results of the basic skills assessment, or an
5 alternative or equivalent basic skills assessment as determined by
6 the Washington professional educator standards board, as a formative
7 assessment of academic strengths and weakness in determining the
8 candidate's readiness for the program. ~~((Individuals so admitted may~~
9 ~~not receive residency certification without passing the basic skills~~
10 ~~assessment under this section.))~~

11 (c) The Washington professional educator standards board may
12 establish criteria to ensure that persons from out-of-state who are
13 applying for residency certification and persons applying to master's
14 degree level teacher preparation programs can demonstrate to the
15 board's satisfaction that they have the requisite basic skills
16 ~~((based upon having completed another basic skills assessment~~
17 ~~acceptable to the Washington professional educator standards board or~~
18 ~~by some other alternative approved by the Washington professional~~
19 ~~educator standards board)).~~

20 (d) The Washington professional educator standards board may
21 identify and accept other tests and test scores as long as the tests
22 are comparable in rigor to the basic skills assessment and candidates
23 meet or exceed the basic skills requirements established by the
24 board. ~~((The board must set the acceptable score for admission to~~
25 ~~teacher certification programs at no lower than the average national~~
26 ~~scores for the SAT or ACT.))~~

27 (2) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
28 set performance standards and develop, pilot, and implement a uniform
29 and externally administered professional-level certification
30 assessment based on demonstrated teaching skill. In the development
31 of this assessment, consideration shall be given to changes in
32 professional certification program components such as the culminating
33 seminar.

34 (3) Beginning not later than September 1, 2002, the Washington
35 professional educator standards board shall provide for the initial
36 piloting and implementation of a means of assessing an applicant's
37 knowledge in the subjects for which the applicant has applied for an
38 endorsement to his or her residency or professional teaching
39 certificate. The assessment of subject knowledge shall not include
40 instructional methodology. Beginning September 1, 2005, passing this

1 assessment shall be required to receive an endorsement for
2 certification purposes.

3 (4) The Washington professional educator standards board may
4 permit exceptions from the assessment requirements under subsections
5 (1), (2), and (3) of this section on a case-by-case basis.

6 (5) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
7 provide for reasonable accommodations for individuals who are
8 required to take the assessments in subsection (1), (2), or (3) of
9 this section if the individuals have learning or other disabilities.

10 (6) With the exception of applicants exempt from the requirements
11 of subsections ~~((1), (2))~~ (2) ~~((1), (2))~~ and (3) of this section, an
12 applicant must achieve a minimum assessment score or scores
13 established by the Washington professional educator standards board
14 on each of the assessments under subsections ~~((1), (2))~~ (2) ~~((1), (2))~~ and
15 (3) of this section.

16 (7) The Washington professional educator standards board and
17 superintendent of public instruction, as determined by the Washington
18 professional educator standards board, may contract with one or more
19 third parties for:

20 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and
21 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the Washington
22 professional educator standards board under subsections (1), (2), and
23 (3) of this section;

24 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

25 (c) Any combination of the purposes in this subsection.

26 (8) Applicants for admission to a Washington teacher preparation
27 program and applicants for residency and professional certificates
28 who are required to successfully complete one or more of the
29 assessments under subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section, and
30 who are charged a fee for the assessment by a third party contracted
31 with under subsection (7) of this section, shall pay the fee charged
32 by the contractor directly to the contractor. Such fees shall be
33 reasonably related to the actual costs of the contractor in providing
34 the assessment.

35 (9) The superintendent of public instruction is responsible for
36 supervision and providing support services to administer this
37 section.

38 (10) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
39 collaboratively select or develop and implement the applicable
40 assessments and minimum assessment scores required under this section

1 with the superintendent of public instruction and shall provide
2 opportunities for representatives of other interested educational
3 organizations to participate in the selection or development and
4 implementation of such assessments in a manner deemed appropriate by
5 the Washington professional educator standards board.

6 (11) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
7 adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are reasonably necessary for
8 the effective and efficient implementation of this section.

--- END ---