
HOUSE BILL 2653

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Thai, Ybarra, Bergquist, Goodman, Ortiz-Self, Sells, Lovick, Valdez, Entenman, Callan, Senn, Gregerson, Leavitt, Ramos, Pollet, Davis, and Kloba

Read first time 01/16/20. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to determining cultural bias in kindergarten
2 assessments; creating new sections; repealing RCW 28A.655.080; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to convene a work
6 group to examine the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing
7 skills for test bias. A test is considered biased when the scores of
8 one group are significantly different and have higher predictive
9 validity, which is the extent to which a score on an assessment
10 predicts future performance, than another group.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
12 public instruction, in consultation with the department of children,
13 youth, and families and the educational opportunity gap oversight and
14 accountability committee, shall convene a work group to:

15 (a) Have Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills
16 materials reviewed by experts trained in identifying cultural bias
17 and by representatives of culturally and linguistically diverse
18 subgroups;

1 (b) Ensure that processes used to develop the inventory are
2 inclusive of diverse student subgroups and large enough to constitute
3 a representative sample;

4 (c) Eliminate items that produce the largest racial and cultural
5 performance gaps, and select items that produce the smallest gaps;

6 (d) Screen for and eliminate items, references, and terms that
7 are more likely to be offensive to certain groups;

8 (e) Determine if the training teachers get to implement the
9 inventory addresses implicit bias; and

10 (f) Make recommendations to the legislature based on its
11 findings.

12 (2) The work group must include:

13 (a) One representative from the office of the superintendent of
14 public instruction;

15 (b) One representative from the department of children, youth,
16 and families;

17 (c) One representative from the educational opportunity gap
18 oversight and accountability committee;

19 (d) Five representatives, including three teachers determined by
20 the Washington education association and two principals determined by
21 the association of Washington state principals, who are currently
22 using the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills; and

23 (e) Two parents chosen by the Washington state parent teacher
24 association.

25 (3) The work group may contract with an expert in examining
26 cultural bias in assessments.

27 (4) A report and recommendations must be submitted to the
28 education committees of the senate and the house of representatives
29 and the education opportunity gap oversight and accountability
30 committee by December 1, 2020. A subsequent report on the
31 recommendations implemented and analysis of student scores must be
32 submitted to the education committees of the senate and the house of
33 representatives and the education opportunity gap oversight and
34 accountability committee by December 1, 2021.

35 (5) For purposes of this section:

36 (a) "Inventory" means the Washington kindergarten inventory of
37 developing skills.

38 (b) A test is considered biased when the scores of one group are
39 significantly different and have higher predictive validity, which is

1 the extent to which a score on an assessment predicts future
2 performance, than another group.

3 (6) This section expires December 1, 2022.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.080 (Washington kindergarten
5 inventory of developing skills—Implementation and administration—
6 Work group—Reports—Grants—Waivers) and 2018 c 58 s 1 & 2012 c 51 s
7 2 are each repealed.

--- END ---