

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5193

As of January 13, 2025

Title: An act relating to supporting remote testing options for students enrolled in online school programs.

Brief Description: Supporting remote testing options for students enrolled in online school programs.

Sponsors: Senator Cortes.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/15/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires school districts with online programs to provide all students within those programs the ability to complete statewide assessments remotely beginning in the 2026-27 school year.
- Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop, review, or update assessment administration and security policies to support remote testing options by April 1, 2026.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Elena Becker (786-7493)

Background: Statewide Assessments. State and federal law requires that Washington students regularly take statewide tests to assess their learning growth and the progress of the educational system. This includes include English language arts and math tests administered in the 3rd through 8th and 10th grades, and science exams administered in the 5th, 8th, and 11th grades.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Online Learning. State law requires that each school district has its own online learning policy and practice, which dictates if and how it provides online learning opportunities. According to guidance from OSPI, when students enroll in online courses, the district serving the student remains responsible for administering the student's state assessments.

Summary of Bill: School districts with online programs must provide all students within those programs the ability to complete statewide assessments remotely beginning in the 2026-27 school year.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction must develop, review, or update, as appropriate, assessment administration and security policies to support remote testing options by April 1, 2026. At a minimum, these policies must address:

- required qualifications for testing personnel;
- maximum ratio of students to proctors;
- requirements for remote testing environments, including monitoring procedures and restrictions on access to devices and persons;
- device and network requirements; and
- parental consent and agreement forms.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 11, 2025.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.