
SENATE BILL 5327

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Wellman, Nobles, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/17/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to learning standards and graduation
2 requirements; amending RCW 28A.655.070; creating new sections; and
3 providing expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) As the state board of education
6 reviews potential changes to graduation requirements, the board
7 shall, at minimum, include in its recommendations adjustments
8 necessary to ensure that students have adequate opportunity to
9 demonstrate competency of the foundational skills established in the
10 high school computer science state learning standards.

11 (2) In developing the recommendations, the state board of
12 education must:

13 (a) Consult with students, parents and legal guardians,
14 educators, K-12 education partners, postsecondary partners,
15 employers, and community members; and

16 (b) Consider how to incorporate the competencies described in
17 subsection (1) of this section into the framework of graduation
18 requirements, including consideration of credit options and
19 competency-based options.

1 (3) The state board of education shall, in accordance with RCW
2 43.01.036, report its recommendations to the governor and the
3 education committees of the legislature by December 31, 2026.

4 (4) This section expires August 1, 2027.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
6 public instruction shall initiate a review and update of the state
7 computer science learning standards for students in grades
8 kindergarten through 12. In developing the update of the state
9 computer science learning standards, the office of the superintendent
10 of public instruction shall review computer science learning
11 standards adopted by other states and consult with nonprofit
12 organizations that have a demonstrated expertise in assisting states
13 in developing computer science learning standards. In developing the
14 state learning standards and supporting documents for grades nine
15 through 12, the office of the superintendent of public instruction
16 must identify any standards considered to be foundational for
17 graduation purposes as established in section 1 of this act.

18 (2) The state board of education shall collect information from
19 school districts about the courses and other learning opportunities
20 currently offered in computer science for high school students in
21 their district, how the district already assesses or plans to assess
22 competency of the computer science state learning standards, and what
23 the district may need to implement the state board of education's
24 recommendations established under section 1 of this act. The data
25 collection required by this subsection may be conducted concurrently
26 with other oversight and monitoring activities conducted by the state
27 board of education. The state board of education shall report a
28 summary of the information collected to the legislature by December
29 31, 2025, and shall include any recommendations on what actions the
30 legislature could take to assist school districts in meeting the
31 needs identified by school districts, including whether exploring
32 options for increasing the number of educators endorsed to teach
33 computer science is necessary.

34 (3) This section expires August 1, 2027.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.070 and 2024 c 157 s 4 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop state
38 learning standards that identify the knowledge and skills all public

1 school students need to know and be able to do based on the student
2 learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, develop student assessments, and
3 implement the accountability recommendations and requests regarding
4 assistance, rewards, and recognition of the state board of education.

5 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall:

6 (a) Periodically revise the state learning standards, as needed,
7 based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and
8 two shall be considered primary. To the maximum extent possible, the
9 superintendent shall integrate goals three and four (~~and the~~
10 ~~knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in~~) into the state
11 learning standards;

12 (b) Include a screening for biased content in each development or
13 revision of a state learning standard and ensure that the concepts of
14 diversity, equity, and inclusion, as those terms are defined in RCW
15 28A.415.443, are incorporated into each new or revised state learning
16 standard. In meeting the requirements of this subsection (2)(b), the
17 superintendent of public instruction shall consult with the
18 applicable commissions established in Title 43 RCW and other persons
19 and organizations with relevant expertise; and

20 (c) Review and prioritize the state learning standards and
21 identify, with clear and concise descriptions, the grade level
22 content expectations to be assessed on the statewide student
23 assessment and used for state or federal accountability purposes. The
24 review, prioritization, and identification shall result in more focus
25 and targeting with an emphasis on depth over breadth in the number of
26 grade level content expectations assessed at each grade level. Grade
27 level content expectations shall be articulated over the grades as a
28 sequence of expectations and performances that are logical, build
29 with increasing depth after foundational knowledge and skills are
30 acquired, and reflect, where appropriate, the sequential nature of
31 the discipline. The office of the superintendent of public
32 instruction, within seven working days, shall post on its website any
33 grade level content expectations provided to an assessment vendor for
34 use in constructing the statewide student assessment.

35 (3)(a) In consultation with the state board of education, the
36 superintendent of public instruction shall maintain and continue to
37 develop and revise a statewide academic assessment system in the
38 content areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science for use
39 in the elementary, middle, and high school years designed to
40 determine if each student has mastered the state learning standards

1 identified in subsection (1) of this section. School districts shall
2 administer the assessments under guidelines adopted by the
3 superintendent of public instruction. The academic assessment system
4 may include a variety of assessment methods, including criterion-
5 referenced and performance-based measures.

6 (b) Effective with the 2009 administration of the Washington
7 assessment of student learning and continuing with the statewide
8 student assessment, the superintendent shall redesign the assessment
9 in the content areas of reading, mathematics, and science in all
10 grades except high school by shortening test administration and
11 reducing the number of short answer and extended response questions.

12 (c) By the 2014-15 school year, the superintendent of public
13 instruction, in consultation with the state board of education, shall
14 modify the statewide student assessment system to transition to
15 assessments developed with a multistate consortium, as provided in
16 this subsection:

17 (i) The assessments developed with a multistate consortium to
18 assess student proficiency in English language arts and mathematics
19 shall be administered beginning in the 2014-15 school year, and
20 beginning with the graduating class of 2020, the assessments must be
21 administered to students in the tenth grade. The reading and writing
22 assessments shall not be administered by the superintendent of public
23 instruction or schools after the 2013-14 school year.

24 (ii) The high school assessments in English language arts and
25 mathematics in (c)(i) of this subsection shall be used for the
26 purposes of federal and state accountability and for assessing
27 student career and college readiness.

28 (d) The statewide academic assessment system must also include
29 the Washington access to instruction and measurement assessment for
30 students with significant cognitive challenges.

31 (4) If the superintendent proposes any modification to the state
32 learning standards or the statewide assessments, then the
33 superintendent shall, upon request, provide opportunities for the
34 education committees of the house of representatives and the senate
35 to review the assessments and proposed modifications to the state
36 learning standards before the modifications are adopted.

37 (5) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results
38 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to
39 evaluate instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate
40 educational support for students who have not mastered the state

1 learning standards at the appropriate periods in the student's
2 educational development.

3 (6) By September 2007, the results for reading and mathematics
4 shall be reported in a format that will allow parents and teachers to
5 determine the academic gain a student has acquired in those content
6 areas from one school year to the next.

7 (7) To assist parents and teachers in their efforts to provide
8 educational support to individual students, the superintendent of
9 public instruction shall provide as much individual student
10 performance information as possible within the constraints of the
11 assessment system's item bank. The superintendent shall also provide
12 to school districts:

13 (a) Information on classroom-based and other assessments that may
14 provide additional achievement information for individual students;
15 and

16 (b) A collection of diagnostic tools that educators may use to
17 evaluate the academic status of individual students. The tools shall
18 be designed to be inexpensive, easily administered, and quickly and
19 easily scored, with results provided in a format that may be easily
20 shared with parents and students.

21 (8) To the maximum extent possible, the superintendent shall
22 integrate knowledge and skill areas in development of the
23 assessments.

24 (9) Assessments for goals three and four of RCW 28A.150.210 shall
25 be integrated in the state learning standards and assessments for
26 goals one and two.

27 (10) The superintendent shall develop assessments that are
28 directly related to the state learning standards, and are not biased
29 toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic
30 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender.

31 (11) The superintendent shall review available and appropriate
32 options for competency-based assessments that meet the state learning
33 standards. In accordance with the review required by this subsection,
34 the superintendent shall provide a report and recommendations to the
35 education committees of the house of representatives and the senate
36 by November 1, 2019.

37 (12) The superintendent shall consider methods to address the
38 unique needs of special education students when developing the
39 assessments under this section.

1 (13) The superintendent shall consider methods to address the
2 unique needs of highly capable students when developing the
3 assessments under this section.

4 (14) The superintendent shall post on the superintendent's
5 website lists of resources and model assessments in social studies,
6 the arts, and health and fitness.

7 (15) The superintendent shall integrate financial education
8 skills and content knowledge into the state learning standards
9 pursuant to RCW 28A.300.460(2)(d).

10 (16)(a) The superintendent shall notify the state board of
11 education in writing before initiating the development or revision of
12 the state learning standards under subsections (1) and (2) of this
13 section. The notification must be provided to the state board of
14 education in advance for review at a regularly scheduled or special
15 board meeting and must include the following information:

16 (i) The subject matter of the state learning standards;

17 (ii) The reason or reasons the superintendent is initiating the
18 development or revision; and

19 (iii) The process and timeline that the superintendent intends to
20 follow for the development or revision.

21 (b) The state board of education may provide a response to the
22 superintendent's notification for consideration in the development or
23 revision process in (a) of this subsection.

24 (c) Prior to adoption by the superintendent of any new or revised
25 state learning standards, the superintendent shall submit the
26 proposed new or revised state learning standards to the state board
27 of education in advance in writing for review at a regularly
28 scheduled or special board meeting. The state board of education may
29 provide a response to the superintendent's proposal for consideration
30 prior to final adoption.

31 (17) The state board of education may propose new or revised
32 state learning standards to the superintendent. The superintendent
33 must respond to the state board of education's proposal in writing.

34 (18) The superintendent shall produce and post on its website a
35 schedule for the revision of state learning standards under
36 subsection (2) of this section by September 1, 2025. In addition to
37 notifying parents, schools, and the public of the revision schedules
38 and timelines, the website posting must be updated as necessary to
39 inform persons of the status of any pending revisions, and of any

1 plans or actions related to developing new state learning standards
2 under subsection (1) of this section.

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