

HOUSE BILL NO. 346

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON

Introduced: 2/22/12
Referred: Education

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing a high school entrance benchmark assessment for students in
2 grade eight; repealing the secondary student competency examination and related
3 requirements; and providing for an effective date."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 14.03.074. High school entrance benchmark assessment.** (a) Each
7 public school in the state that enrolls students in grade eight shall, in the spring of each
8 school year, provide to all students in grade eight a benchmark assessment approved
9 by the commissioner for the purpose of providing school districts with information to
10 improve curriculum, teaching, and remedial programs targeted to the deficiencies and
11 strengths in student performance. The benchmark assessment required in this
12 subsection is not a prerequisite to graduation.

13 (b) The department shall adopt regulations to establish uniform standards for
14 (1) procedures to be followed during the administration of the

1 benchmark assessment; and

2 (2) an alternative assessment that will assess individual students with
3 disabilities.

4 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.078 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 14.03.078. Report.** The department shall provide to the legislature by
6 February 15 of each year an annual report regarding the progress of each school and
7 school district toward high academic performance by all students. The report required
8 under this section must include

9 (1) information described under AS 14.03.120(d);

10 (2) [THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN
11 EACH SCHOOL WHO PASS THE EXAMINATION REQUIRED UNDER
12 AS 14.03.075, AND THE NUMBER WHO PASS EACH SECTION OF THE
13 EXAMINATION;

14 (3)] progress of the department

15 (A) toward implementing the school accountability provisions
16 of AS 14.03.123; and

17 (B) in assisting high schools to become accredited;

18 (3) [(4)] a description of the resources provided to each school and
19 school district for coordinated school improvement activities and staff training in each
20 school and school district;

21 (4) [(5)] each school district's and each school's progress in aligning
22 curriculum with state education performance standards;

23 (5) [(6)] a description of the efforts by the department to assist a public
24 school that receives a designation of deficient or in crisis;

25 (6) [(7)] a description of intervention efforts by each school district
26 and school for students who are not meeting state performance standards;

27 (7) [(8)] the number and percentage of turnover in certificated
28 personnel and superintendents;

29 (8) [(9)] the number of teachers by district and by school who are
30 teaching outside the teacher's area of endorsement [BUT IN AREAS TESTED BY
31 THE HIGH SCHOOL COMPETENCY EXAMINATION].

1 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03.120(d) is amended to read:

2 (d) Annually, before the date set by the district under (e) of this section, each
3 public school shall deliver to the department for posting on the department's Internet
4 website and provide, in a public meeting of parents, students, and community
5 members, a report on the school's performance and the performance of the school's
6 students. The report shall be prepared on a form prescribed by the department and
7 must include

8 (1) information on accreditation;

9 (2) results of norm-referenced achievement tests;

10 (3) results of state standards-based assessments in reading, writing, and
11 mathematics;

12 (4) a description, including quantitative and qualitative measures, of
13 student, parent, community, and business involvement in student learning;

14 (5) a description of the school's attendance, retention, dropout, and
15 graduation rates, [INCLUDING THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF
16 STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A DIPLOMA UNDER A WAIVER FROM THE
17 COMPETENCY EXAMINATION REQUIRED UNDER AS 14.03.075(a),] as
18 specified by the state board;

19 (6) the annual percent of enrollment change, regardless of reason, and
20 the annual percent of enrollment change due to student transfers into and out of the
21 school district;

22 (7) if Native language education is provided, a summary and
23 evaluation of the curriculum described in AS 14.30.420;

24 (8) [THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN
25 EACH SCHOOL WHO TAKE AND WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE AN
26 ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM IN READING, ENGLISH, OR
27 MATHEMATICS; AND THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS IN
28 EACH SCHOOL WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE ALTERNATIVE
29 ASSESSMENT PROGRAM BUT WHO DO NOT REACH THE STATE
30 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AT THE COMPETENCY EXAM LEVEL IN
31 READING, ENGLISH, OR MATHEMATICS; A SCHOOL MAY NOT REPORT

1 RESULTS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH UNLESS THE SCHOOL COMPLIES
 2 WITH THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY
 3 REQUIREMENTS OF 34 C.F.R. 99;

4 (9)] the performance designation assigned the school under
 5 AS 14.03.123 and the methodology used to assign the performance designation,
 6 including the measures used and their relative weights; and

7 (9) [(10)] other information concerning school performance and the
 8 performance of the school's students as required by the state board in regulation.

9 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.03.123(f) is amended to read:

10 (f) In the accountability system for schools and districts required by this
 11 section, the department shall

12 (1) implement 20 U.S.C. 6301 - 7941 (Elementary and Secondary
 13 Education Act of 1965), as amended;

14 (2) implement state criteria and priorities for accountability including
 15 the use of

16 (A) measures of student performance on standards-based
 17 assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics [, AND INCLUDING
 18 COMPETENCY TESTS REQUIRED UNDER AS 14.03.075];

19 (B) measures of student improvement; and

20 (C) other measures identified that are indicators of student
 21 success and achievement; and

22 (3) to the extent practicable, minimize the administrative burden on
 23 districts.

24 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.03.255(a) is amended to read:

25 (a) A charter school operates as a school in the local school district except that
 26 the charter school (1) is exempt from the local school district's textbook, program,
 27 curriculum, and scheduling requirements; (2) is exempt from AS 14.14.130(c); the
 28 principal of the charter school shall be selected by the academic policy committee and
 29 shall select, appoint, or otherwise supervise employees of the charter school; and (3)
 30 operates under the charter school's annual program budget as set out in the contract
 31 between the local school board and the charter school under (c) of this section. A local

1 school board may exempt a charter school from other local school district
2 requirements if the exemption is set out in the contract. A charter school is subject to
3 **standards-based assessments** [SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPETENCY TESTING
4 AS PROVIDED IN AS 14.03.075 AND OTHER COMPETENCY TESTS] required
5 by the department.

6 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.03.075 and AS 14.07.165(5) are repealed.

7 * **Sec. 7.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2012.