
HOUSE BILL 1330

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Rolfes, Sells, Liias, Haigh, Probst, Van De Wege,
and Tharinger

Read first time 01/19/11. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to high school assessments as graduation
2 requirements; amending RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.655.0611; creating a
3 new section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the current
6 fiscal situation is placing a tremendous strain on both the state and
7 local school districts. At the same time as funding is being reduced,
8 school districts are being asked to make changes in student performance
9 assessments by moving to a new form of testing that may be incongruous
10 with the instruction those students received, particularly in
11 mathematics. It is both fiscal and practically prudent to adjust the
12 use of high school assessments for graduation purposes temporarily to
13 alleviate some of the strain on the state, school districts, and
14 students.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2010 c 244 s 1 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
18 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities

1 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which
2 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature
3 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, one or more objective
4 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of
5 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for
6 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
7 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
8 assessment of student learning for each content area.

9 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
10 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
11 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
12 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
13 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
14 28A.155.045 or 28A.655.0611, acquisition of the certificate is required
15 for graduation from a public high school but is not the only
16 requirement for graduation.

17 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
18 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who
19 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics
20 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student
21 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a
22 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more
23 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,
24 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to
25 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully
26 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the
27 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once
28 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection
29 (10) of this section, a student may use the objective alternative
30 assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully meets the
31 state standards for that content area if the student has taken the
32 Washington assessment of student learning at least once. If the
33 student successfully meets the state standards on the objective
34 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of
35 academic achievement.

36 (4) Beginning ((no later than)) with the graduating class of
37 ((2013)) 2016, a student must meet the state standards in science in
38 addition to the other content areas required under subsection (3) of

1 this section on the Washington assessment of student learning or the
2 objective alternative assessments in order to earn a certificate of
3 academic achievement. (~~The state board of education may adopt a rule
4 that implements the requirements of this subsection (4) beginning with
5 a graduating class before the graduating class of 2013, if the state
6 board of education adopts the rule by September 1st of the freshman
7 school year of the graduating class to which the requirements of this
8 subsection (4) apply. The state board of education's authority under
9 this subsection (4) does not alter the requirement that any change in
10 performance standards for the tenth grade assessment must comply with
11 RCW 28A.305.130.~~)

12 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of
13 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based
14 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private
15 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the
16 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045.

17 (6) A student may retain and use the highest result from each
18 successfully completed content area of the high school assessment.

19 (7) School districts must make available to students the following
20 options:

21 (a) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
22 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
23 state standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

24 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
25 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
26 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion
27 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of
28 public instruction and the state board for community and technical
29 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these
30 programs can be assessed.

31 (8) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the high
32 school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall pay for
33 retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the
34 superintendent of public instruction.

35 (9) Opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year
36 shall be available to each school district.

37 (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
38 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative

1 assessments, which may include an appeals process for students' scores,
2 for students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic
3 standards. The objective alternative assessments shall be comparable
4 in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate
5 on the Washington assessment of student learning and be objective in
6 its determination of student achievement of the state standards.
7 Before any objective alternative assessments in addition to those
8 authorized in RCW 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a
9 student to demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in
10 a content area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall
11 formally approve the use of any objective alternative assessments
12 through the omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent
13 resolution.

14 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English, or
15 writing portion of the SAT or the ACT may be used as an objective
16 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
17 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate of
18 academic achievement. The state board of education shall identify the
19 scores students must achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT or ACT
20 to meet or exceed the state standard in the relevant content area on
21 the Washington assessment of student learning. The state board of
22 education shall identify the first scores by December 1, 2007. After
23 the first scores are established, the state board may increase but not
24 decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed the state
25 standards.

26 (ii) Until August 31, 2008, a student's score on the mathematics
27 portion of the PSAT may be used as an objective alternative assessment
28 under this section for demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded
29 the state standard for the certificate of academic achievement. The
30 state board of education shall identify the score students must achieve
31 on the mathematics portion of the PSAT to meet or exceed the state
32 standard in that content area on the Washington assessment of student
33 learning.

34 (iii) A student who scores at least a three on the grading scale of
35 one to five for selected AP examinations may use the score as an
36 objective alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating
37 that a student has met or exceeded state standards for the certificate
38 of academic achievement. A score of three on the AP examinations in

1 calculus or statistics may be used as an alternative assessment for the
2 mathematics portion of the Washington assessment of student learning.
3 A score of three on the AP examinations in English language and
4 composition may be used as an alternative assessment for the writing
5 portion of the Washington assessment of student learning. A score of
6 three on the AP examinations in English literature and composition,
7 macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United States history,
8 world history, United States government and politics, or comparative
9 government and politics may be used as an alternative assessment for
10 the reading portion of the Washington assessment of student learning.

11 (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate
12 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from
13 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the
14 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of
15 student learning for making individual student high school graduation
16 determinations.

17 (12) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
18 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are
19 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare
20 plans for and notify students and their parents or legal guardians as
21 provided in this subsection. Student learning plans are required for
22 eighth grade students who were not successful on any or all of the
23 content areas of the state assessment during the previous school year
24 or who may not be on track to graduate due to credit deficiencies or
25 absences. The parent or legal guardian shall be notified about the
26 information in the student learning plan, preferably through a parent
27 conference and at least annually. To the extent feasible, schools
28 serving English language learner students and their parents shall
29 translate the plan into the primary language of the family. The plan
30 shall include the following information as applicable:

- 31 (a) The student's results on the state assessment;
- 32 (b) If the student is in the transitional bilingual program, the
33 score on his or her Washington language proficiency test II;
- 34 (c) Any credit deficiencies;
- 35 (d) The student's attendance rates over the previous two years;
- 36 (e) The student's progress toward meeting state and local
37 graduation requirements;

1 (f) The courses, competencies, and other steps needed to be taken
2 by the student to meet state academic standards and stay on track for
3 graduation;

4 (g) Remediation strategies and alternative education options
5 available to students, including informing students of the option to
6 continue to receive instructional services after grade twelve or until
7 the age of twenty-one;

8 (h) The alternative assessment options available to students under
9 this section and RCW 28A.655.065;

10 (i) School district programs, high school courses, and career and
11 technical education options available for students to meet graduation
12 requirements; and

13 (j) Available programs offered through skill centers or community
14 and technical colleges, including the college high school diploma
15 options under RCW 28B.50.535.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.0611 and 2009 c 17 s 1 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008 and through (~~no~~
19 ~~later than~~) the graduating class of ((2012)) 2015, students may
20 graduate from high school without earning a certificate of academic
21 achievement or a certificate of individual achievement if they:

22 (a) Have not successfully met the mathematics standard on the high
23 school Washington assessment of student learning, an approved objective
24 alternative assessment, or an alternate assessment developed for
25 eligible special education students;

26 (b) Have successfully met the state standard in the other content
27 areas required for a certificate under RCW 28A.655.061 or 28A.155.045;

28 (c) Have met all other state and school district graduation
29 requirements; and

30 (d)(i) For the graduating class of 2008, successfully earn one high
31 school mathematics credit or career and technical course equivalent,
32 including courses offered at skill centers, after the student's
33 eleventh grade year intended to increase the student's mathematics
34 proficiency toward meeting or exceeding the mathematics standards
35 assessed on the high school Washington assessment of student learning;
36 and

1 (ii) For the remaining graduating classes under this section,
2 successfully earn two mathematics credits or career and technical
3 course equivalent, including courses offered at skill centers, after
4 the student's tenth grade year intended to increase the student's
5 mathematics proficiency toward meeting or exceeding the mathematics
6 standards assessed on the high school Washington assessment of student
7 learning.

8 ~~(2) ((The state board of education may adopt a rule that ends the~~
9 ~~application of this section with a graduating class before the~~
10 ~~graduating class of 2012, if the state board of education adopts the~~
11 ~~rule by September 1st of the freshman school year of the graduating~~
12 ~~class to which the provisions of this section no longer apply. The~~
13 ~~state board of education's authority under this section does not alter~~
14 ~~the requirement that any change in performance standards for the tenth~~
15 ~~grade assessment must comply with RCW 28A.305.130.~~

16 ~~(3))~~ This section expires August 31, ~~((2013))~~ 2016.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
20 immediately.

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