
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5587

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Litzow, Dammeier, Rivers, Fain, and Tom)

READ FIRST TIME 02/19/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to student assessments; amending RCW 28A.655.061,
2 28A.655.066, 28A.655.070, 28A.655.071, 28B.105.010, 28B.105.030, and
3 28B.105.060; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the
6 superintendent of public instruction was authorized to align the state
7 essential academic learning requirements for mathematics, reading,
8 writing, and communication with the common set of standards for
9 students in grades kindergarten through twelve, known as the common
10 core state standards, which were developed by a multistate consortium
11 in which Washington took part. The legislature further finds that
12 Washington has joined one of two multistate consortia using a federal
13 grant to develop new language arts and math assessments in grades three
14 through eight and grade eleven that are, among other factors, aligned
15 with the common core state standards and test college and career
16 readiness at the high school level. The legislature further finds that
17 the assessments are required to be ready for use by the 2014-15 school
18 year. The legislature intends to make changes to the assessment system

1 in order to use the consortia-developed tests to meet the requirements
2 of the state and federal accountability requirements.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 22 s 2 are each
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
6 limited to the statewide student assessment, opportunities for a
7 student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which the
8 student was not successful, and, if approved by the legislature
9 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, one or more objective
10 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of
11 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for
12 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
13 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the statewide student
14 assessment for each content area.

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

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

1 taken the statewide student assessment at least once. If the student
2 successfully meets the state standards on the objective alternative
3 assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of academic
4 achievement.

5 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of ~~((2015))~~ 2017, a student
6 must meet the state standards in English language arts, mathematics,
7 and science ~~((in addition to the other))~~ instead of the content areas
8 required under subsection (3) of this section on the statewide student
9 assessment or the objective alternative assessments in order to earn a
10 certificate of academic achievement.

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

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

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

20 (a) To retake the statewide student assessment ~~((up to four times))~~
21 at least twice a year in the content areas in which the student did not
22 meet the state standards if the student is enrolled in a public school;
23 or

24 (b) To retake the statewide student assessment ~~((up to four times))~~
25 at least twice a year in the content areas in which the student did not
26 meet the state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school
27 completion program at a community or technical college. The
28 superintendent of public instruction and the state board for community
29 and technical colleges shall jointly identify means by which students
30 in these 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 statewide student assessment and be objective in its
6 determination of student achievement of the state standards. Before
7 any objective alternative assessments in addition to those authorized
8 in RCW 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a student to
9 demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in a content
10 area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall formally
11 approve the use of any objective alternative assessments through the
12 omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

13 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English, or
14 writing portion of the SAT or the ACT may be used as an objective
15 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
16 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate of
17 academic achievement. By the 2014-15 school year, the state board of
18 education shall identify the scores students must achieve on the
19 relevant portion of the SAT or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard
20 in the relevant content area on the statewide student assessment as
21 revised under RCW 28A.655.071. A student's score on the science
22 portion of the ACT or the science subject area tests of the SAT may be
23 used as an objective alternative assessment under this section as soon
24 as the state board of education determines that sufficient data is
25 available to identify reliable equivalent scores for the science
26 content area of the statewide student assessment. After the first
27 scores are established, the state board may increase but not decrease
28 the scores required for students to meet or exceed the state standards.

29 (ii) A student who scores at least a three on the grading scale of
30 one to five for selected AP examinations may use the score as an
31 objective alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating
32 that a student has met or exceeded state standards for the certificate
33 of academic achievement. A score of three on the AP examinations in
34 calculus or statistics may be used as an alternative assessment for the
35 mathematics portion of the statewide student assessment. A score of
36 three on the AP examinations in English language and composition may be
37 used as an alternative assessment for the ((writing)) English language
38 arts portion of the statewide student assessment. A score of three on

1 the AP examinations in English literature and composition,
2 macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United States history,
3 world history, United States government and politics, or comparative
4 government and politics may be used as an alternative assessment for
5 the ((reading)) English language arts portion of the statewide student
6 assessment. A score of three on the AP examination in biology,
7 physics, chemistry, or environmental science may be used as an
8 alternative assessment for the science portion of the statewide student
9 assessment.

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

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

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

1 by the student to meet state academic standards and stay on track for
2 graduation;

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

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

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

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

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.066 and 2011 c 25 s 2 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1)(a) In consultation with the state board of education, the
18 superintendent of public instruction shall develop statewide end-of-
19 course assessments for high school mathematics that measure student
20 achievement of the state mathematics standards. The superintendent
21 shall take steps to ensure that the language of the assessments is
22 responsive to a diverse student population. The assessments shall be
23 implemented statewide in the 2010-11 school year.

24 (b) The superintendent shall develop end-of-course assessments for
25 the first year of high school mathematics that include the standards
26 common to algebra I and integrated mathematics I and for the second
27 year of high school mathematics that include the standards common to
28 geometry and integrated mathematics II. The assessments under this
29 subsection (1)(b) shall be used to demonstrate that a student meets the
30 state standard on the mathematics content area of the high school
31 ((Washington)) statewide student assessment ((of student learning)) for
32 purposes of RCW 28A.655.061.

33 (c) The superintendent of public instruction shall also develop
34 subtests for the end-of-course assessments that measure standards for
35 the first two years of high school mathematics that are unique to
36 algebra I, integrated mathematics I, geometry, and integrated
37 mathematics II. The results of the subtests shall be reported at the

1 student, teacher, school, and district level. These end-of-course
2 assessments shall not be administered and shall not be used for state
3 or federal accountability after the 2013-14 school year.

4 (2) For the graduating classes of 2013 and 2014 and for purposes of
5 the certificate of academic achievement under RCW 28A.655.061, a
6 student may use: (a) Results from the end-of-course assessment for the
7 first year of high school mathematics or the results from the end-of-
8 course assessment for the second year of high school mathematics; or
9 (b) results from a high school mathematics retake assessment.

10 (3) ~~((Beginning with))~~ (a) As the state transitions from the end-
11 of-course mathematics assessments to a comprehensive mathematics
12 assessment, the graduating class of 2015 ~~((and)),~~ for purposes of the
13 certificate of academic achievement under RCW 28A.655.061, ~~((the~~
14 ~~mathematics content area of the Washington assessment of student~~
15 ~~learning))~~ shall be assessed using the end-of-course assessment for the
16 first year of high school mathematics plus the end-of-course assessment
17 for the second year of high school mathematics, or results from a high
18 school mathematics retake assessment for the end-of-course assessments
19 in which the student did not meet the standard.

20 (b) For the graduating class of 2016, for purposes of the
21 certificate of academic achievement under RCW 28A.655.061, the student
22 may choose to be assessed using the end-of-course assessment for the
23 first year of high school mathematics plus the end-of-course assessment
24 for the second year of high school mathematics, or the new
25 comprehensive mathematics assessment. The student may also use the
26 appropriate retakes and alternative assessments available.

27 (4) All of the objective alternative assessments available to
28 students under RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.655.065 shall be available to
29 any student who has taken the ~~((sequence of))~~ end-of-course
30 assessment~~((s))~~ once but does not meet the state mathematics standard
31 on the ~~((sequence of))~~ end-of-course assessment~~((s))~~.

32 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall report at least
33 annually or more often if necessary to keep the education committees of
34 the legislature informed on each step of the development and
35 implementation process under this section.

36 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.655.070 and 2008 c 163 s 2 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop
2 essential academic learning requirements that identify the knowledge
3 and skills all public school students need to know and be able to do
4 based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, develop student
5 assessments, and implement the accountability recommendations and
6 requests regarding assistance, rewards, and recognition of the state
7 board of education.

8 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall:

9 (a) Periodically revise the essential academic learning
10 requirements, as needed, based on the student learning goals in RCW
11 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall be considered primary. To the
12 maximum extent possible, the superintendent shall integrate goal four
13 and the knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the essential
14 academic learning requirements; and

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

32 (3)(a) In consultation with the state board of education, the
33 superintendent of public instruction shall maintain and continue to
34 develop and revise a statewide academic assessment system in the
35 content areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science for use in
36 the elementary, middle, and high school years designed to determine if
37 each student has mastered the essential academic learning requirements
38 identified in subsection (1) of this section. In accordance with RCW

1 28A.655.071, by the 2014-15 school year, the reading and writing
2 assessment shall be changed to an English language arts assessment and
3 the mathematics assessment shall be revised. School districts shall
4 administer the assessments under guidelines adopted by the
5 superintendent of public instruction. The academic assessment system
6 may include a variety of assessment methods, including criterion-
7 referenced and performance-based measures.

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

14 (4) If the superintendent proposes any modification to the
15 essential academic learning requirements or the statewide assessments,
16 then the superintendent shall, upon request, provide opportunities for
17 the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate
18 to review the assessments and proposed modifications to the essential
19 academic learning requirements before the modifications are adopted.

20 (5) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results
21 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to evaluate
22 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational
23 support for students who have not mastered the essential academic
24 learning requirements at the appropriate periods in the student's
25 educational development.

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

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

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

1 (b) A collection of diagnostic tools that educators may use to
2 evaluate the academic status of individual students. The tools shall
3 be designed to be inexpensive, easily administered, and quickly and
4 easily scored, with results provided in a format that may be easily
5 shared with parents and students.

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

8 (9) Assessments for goals three and four of RCW 28A.150.210 shall
9 be integrated in the essential academic learning requirements and
10 assessments for goals one and two.

11 (10) The superintendent shall develop assessments that are directly
12 related to the essential academic learning requirements, and are not
13 biased toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic
14 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender.

15 (11) The superintendent shall consider methods to address the
16 unique needs of special education students when developing the
17 assessments under this section.

18 (12) The superintendent shall consider methods to address the
19 unique needs of highly capable students when developing the assessments
20 under this section.

21 (13) The superintendent shall post on the superintendent's web site
22 lists of resources and model assessments in social studies, the arts,
23 and health and fitness.

24 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.655.071 and 2010 c 235 s 601 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) By August 2, 2010, the superintendent of public instruction may
27 revise the state essential academic learning requirements authorized
28 under RCW 28A.655.070 for mathematics, reading, writing, and
29 communication by provisionally adopting a common set of standards for
30 students in grades kindergarten through twelve. The revised state
31 essential academic learning requirements may be substantially identical
32 with the standards developed by a multistate consortium in which
33 Washington participated, must be consistent with the requirements of
34 RCW 28A.655.070, and may include additional standards if the additional
35 standards do not exceed fifteen percent of the standards for each
36 content area. (~~However, the superintendent of public instruction~~

1 ~~shall not take steps to implement the provisionally adopted standards~~
2 ~~until the education committees of the house of representatives and the~~
3 ~~senate have an opportunity to review the standards.~~

4 ~~(2) By January 1, 2011, the superintendent of public instruction~~
5 ~~shall submit to the education committees of the house of~~
6 ~~representatives and the senate:~~

7 ~~(a) A detailed comparison of the provisionally adopted standards~~
8 ~~and the state essential academic learning requirements as of June 10,~~
9 ~~2010, including the comparative level of rigor and specificity of the~~
10 ~~standards and the implications of any identified differences; and~~

11 ~~(b) An estimated timeline and costs to the state and to school~~
12 ~~districts to implement the provisionally adopted standards, including~~
13 ~~providing necessary training, realignment of curriculum, adjustment of~~
14 ~~state assessments, and other actions.~~

15 ~~(3) The superintendent may implement the revisions to the essential~~
16 ~~academic learning requirements under this section after the 2011~~
17 ~~legislative session unless otherwise directed by the legislature.))~~

18 (2) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with
19 the state board of education, shall modify the statewide student
20 assessment to implement the assessments developed with a multistate
21 consortium in English language arts and mathematics. The assessments
22 must be implemented in the 2014-15 school year. Beginning with the
23 graduating class of 2017, the English language arts and mathematics
24 assessments or approved alternatives are required for graduation from
25 a public high school in accordance with RCW 28A.655.061. The English
26 language arts and mathematics assessments must be comprehensive
27 assessments and not end-of-course assessments.

28 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28B.105.010 and 2007 c 214 s 1 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The GET ready for math and science scholarship program is
31 established. The purpose of the program is to provide scholarships to
32 students who achieve level four on the mathematics or science portions
33 of the ~~((tenth grade Washington))~~ high school statewide student
34 assessment ~~((of student learning))~~ or achieve a score in the math
35 section of the SAT or the math section of the ACT that is above the
36 ninety-fifth percentile, major in a mathematics, science, or related
37 field in college, and commit to working in mathematics, science, or a

1 related field for at least three years in Washington following
2 completion of their bachelor's degree. The program shall be
3 administered by the nonprofit organization selected as the private
4 partner in the public-private partnership.

5 (2) The total annual amount of each GET ready for math and science
6 scholarship may vary, but shall not exceed the annual cost of resident
7 undergraduate tuition fees and mandatory fees at the University of
8 Washington. An eligible recipient may receive a GET ready for math and
9 science scholarship for up to one hundred eighty quarter credits, or
10 the semester equivalent, or for up to five years, whichever comes
11 first.

12 (3) Scholarships shall be awarded only to the extent that state
13 funds and private matching funds are available for that purpose in the
14 GET ready for math and science (~~(scholarship)~~) scholarship account
15 established in RCW 28B.105.110.

16 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.105.030 and 2007 c 214 s 3 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) An eligible student is a student who:

19 (a) Is eligible for resident tuition and fee rates as defined in
20 RCW 28B.15.012;

21 (b) Achieved level four on the mathematics or science portion of
22 the (~~tenth grade Washington~~) high school statewide student assessment
23 (~~of student learning~~) or achieved a score in the math section of the
24 SAT or the math section of the ACT that is above the ninety-fifth
25 percentile;

26 (c) Has a family income at or below one hundred twenty-five percent
27 of the state median family income at the time the student applies for
28 a GET ready for math and science scholarship and for up to the two
29 previous years;

30 (d) Has declared an intention to complete a qualified program or
31 qualified major or has entered a qualified program or declared a
32 qualified major at an institution of higher education;

33 (e) Has declared an intention to work in a mathematics, science, or
34 related field in Washington for at least three years immediately
35 following completion of a bachelor's degree or higher degree.

36 (2) An eligible recipient is an eligible student who:

1 (a) Has been awarded a scholarship in accordance with the selection
2 criteria and process established by the ((board)) student achievement
3 council and the program administrator;

4 (b) Enrolls at an institution of higher education within one year
5 of graduating from high school;

6 (c) Maintains satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the
7 institution of higher education where the student is enrolled;

8 (d) Takes at least one college-level mathematics or science course
9 each term since enrolling in an institution of higher education; and

10 (e) Enters a qualified program or qualified major no later than the
11 end of the first term in which the student has junior level standing.

12 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28B.105.060 and 2007 c 214 s 6 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall:

15 (1) Notify elementary, middle, junior high, high school, and school
16 district staff and administrators, and the children's administration of
17 the department of social and health services about the GET ready for
18 math and science scholarship program using methods in place for
19 communicating with schools and school districts; and

20 (2) Provide data showing the race, ethnicity, income, and other
21 available demographic information of students who achieve level four of
22 the math and science ((Washington)) high school statewide student
23 assessment ((of student learning)) in the tenth grade((-)); compare
24 those data with comparable information on the tenth grade student
25 population as a whole((-)); and submit a report with the analysis to
26 the committees responsible for education and higher education in the
27 legislature on December 1st of even-numbered years.

--- END ---