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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5849**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wellman, Nobles, Boehnke, Frame, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kuderer, Nguyen, Shewmake, Trudeau, and C. Wilson)

1 AN ACT Relating to a computer science competency graduation  
2 requirement; amending RCW 28A.655.070; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28A.230 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an  
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) Beginning with the 2029 graduating class, all students  
9 shall be required to show competency in the high school learning  
10 standards related to computer science in order to graduate from high  
11 school. Students may demonstrate this computer science competency  
12 graduation requirement through:

13 (i) Completion of a stand-alone computer science course aligned  
14 to the state learning standards;

15 (ii) Completion of a different subject matter course where the  
16 state computer science learning standards are embedded with other  
17 learning standards; or

18 (iii) A demonstration of competency of the foundational skills  
19 established in the computer science state learning standards.

20 (b) For purposes of (a)(iii) of this subsection, demonstration of  
21 competency could include completion of a competency examination as

1 established in RCW 28A.230.300 or any of the options allowed by the  
2 rules adopted by the state board of education under RCW 28A.230.090  
3 that address mastery-based crediting, such as: (i) Completing a  
4 locally established portfolio or culminating project; (ii)  
5 participating in supervised work experience or other outside school  
6 experience; (iii) taking career and technical education classes; (iv)  
7 taking courses offered by regional or community centers or programs;  
8 (v) receiving credits earned at a postsecondary institution; or (vi)  
9 providing documentation of a prior learning activity that  
10 demonstrates proficiency of the identified learning standards. Any of  
11 the options used must include evidence that the student meets or  
12 exceeds the computer science state learning standards.

13 (c) Consideration of seat time or instructional hours is not  
14 required to demonstrate competency for purposes of this section.

15 (d) Students must be allowed to present multiple types of  
16 evidence for the demonstration of competency.

17 (2) Students in grade 12 who have not been able to show computer  
18 science competency because of previous residence outside the state  
19 may have the requirement of this section waived by their principal.

20 (3) Nothing in this section increases the number of high school  
21 credits required for graduation as established by the state board of  
22 education under RCW 28A.230.090.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of the superintendent of  
24 public instruction shall initiate a review and update of the state  
25 computer science learning standards for students in grades  
26 kindergarten through 12. In developing the update of the state  
27 computer science learning standards, the office of the superintendent  
28 of public instruction shall review computer science learning  
29 standards adopted by other states and consult with nonprofit  
30 organizations that have a demonstrated expertise in assisting states  
31 in developing computer science learning standards. In developing the  
32 state learning standards and supporting documents for grades nine  
33 through 12, the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
34 shall identify the standards considered to be foundational for  
35 graduation purposes as established in section 1 of this act.

36 (2) The state board of education shall collect information from  
37 school districts about the courses and other learning opportunities  
38 currently offered in computer science for high school students in  
39 their district, how the district already assesses or plans to assess

1 competency of the computer science state learning standards, and what  
2 the district may need in order to ensure that students are ready for  
3 the graduation requirement established under section 1 of this act.  
4 The data collection required by this subsection may be conducted  
5 concurrently with other oversight and monitoring activities conducted  
6 by the state board of education. The state board of education shall  
7 report a summary of the information collected to the legislature by  
8 October 31, 2025, and shall include any recommendations on what  
9 actions the legislature could take to assist school districts in  
10 meeting the needs identified by school districts, including whether  
11 exploring options for increasing the number of educators endorsed to  
12 teach computer science is necessary.

13 (3) This section expires July 1, 2026.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.070 and 2019 c 252 s 119 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop state  
17 learning standards that identify the knowledge and skills all public  
18 school students need to know and be able to do based on the student  
19 learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, develop student assessments, and  
20 implement the accountability recommendations and requests regarding  
21 assistance, rewards, and recognition of the state board of education.

22 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall:

23 (a) Periodically revise the state learning standards, as needed,  
24 based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and  
25 two shall be considered primary. To the maximum extent possible, the  
26 superintendent shall integrate (~~goal four~~) technology literacy and  
27 fluency from goal three and the knowledge and skill areas in the  
28 other goals in the state learning standards; and

29 (b) Review and prioritize the state learning standards and  
30 identify, with clear and concise descriptions, the grade level  
31 content expectations to be assessed on the statewide student  
32 assessment and used for state or federal accountability purposes. The  
33 review, prioritization, and identification shall result in more focus  
34 and targeting with an emphasis on depth over breadth in the number of  
35 grade level content expectations assessed at each grade level. Grade  
36 level content expectations shall be articulated over the grades as a  
37 sequence of expectations and performances that are logical, build  
38 with increasing depth after foundational knowledge and skills are  
39 acquired, and reflect, where appropriate, the sequential nature of

1 the discipline. The office of the superintendent of public  
2 instruction, within seven working days, shall post on its website any  
3 grade level content expectations provided to an assessment vendor for  
4 use in constructing the statewide student assessment.

5 (3) (a) In consultation with the state board of education, the  
6 superintendent of public instruction shall maintain and continue to  
7 develop and revise a statewide academic assessment system in the  
8 content areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science for use  
9 in the elementary, middle, and high school years designed to  
10 determine if each student has mastered the state learning standards  
11 identified in subsection (1) of this section. School districts shall  
12 administer the assessments under guidelines adopted by the  
13 superintendent of public instruction. The academic assessment system  
14 may include a variety of assessment methods, including criterion-  
15 referenced and performance-based measures.

16 (b) Effective with the 2009 administration of the Washington  
17 assessment of student learning and continuing with the statewide  
18 student assessment, the superintendent shall redesign the assessment  
19 in the content areas of reading, mathematics, and science in all  
20 grades except high school by shortening test administration and  
21 reducing the number of short answer and extended response questions.

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

27 (i) The assessments developed with a multistate consortium to  
28 assess student proficiency in English language arts and mathematics  
29 shall be administered beginning in the 2014-15 school year, and  
30 beginning with the graduating class of 2020, the assessments must be  
31 administered to students in the tenth grade. The reading and writing  
32 assessments shall not be administered by the superintendent of public  
33 instruction or schools after the 2013-14 school year.

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

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

1 (4) If the superintendent proposes any modification to the state  
2 learning standards or the statewide assessments, then the  
3 superintendent shall, upon request, provide opportunities for the  
4 education committees of the house of representatives and the senate  
5 to review the assessments and proposed modifications to the state  
6 learning standards before the modifications are adopted.

7 (5) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results  
8 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to  
9 evaluate instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate  
10 educational support for students who have not mastered the state  
11 learning standards at the appropriate periods in the student's  
12 educational development.

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

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

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

26 (b) A collection of diagnostic tools that educators may use to  
27 evaluate the academic status of individual students. The tools shall  
28 be designed to be inexpensive, easily administered, and quickly and  
29 easily scored, with results provided in a format that may be easily  
30 shared with parents and students.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (16)(a) The superintendent shall notify the state board of  
20 education in writing before initiating the development or revision of  
21 the state learning standards under subsections (1) and (2) of this  
22 section. The notification must be provided to the state board of  
23 education in advance for review at a regularly scheduled or special  
24 board meeting and must include the following information:

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

26 (ii) The reason or reasons the superintendent is initiating the  
27 development or revision; and

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

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

33 (c) Prior to adoption by the superintendent of any new or revised  
34 state learning standards, the superintendent shall submit the  
35 proposed new or revised state learning standards to the state board  
36 of education in advance in writing for review at a regularly  
37 scheduled or special board meeting. The state board of education may  
38 provide a response to the superintendent's proposal for consideration  
39 prior to final adoption.

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

--- **END** ---