

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0159

Education-writing assessment.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Throne, Freeman, Harshman,
Madden and Sommers and Senator(s) Anderson,
J.D. (SD02), Coe, Landen, Pappas and
Rothfuss

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the separate statewide writing
2 assessment; eliminating the writing assessment; making
3 conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date.

4

5 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

6

7 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-2-204(c) (ii) (intro) and
8 21-2-304(a) (v) (B) and (E) are amended to read:

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10 **21-2-204. Wyoming Accountability in Education Act;**
11 **statewide education accountability system created.**

12

13 (c) School level performance shall be determined by
14 measurement of performance indicators and attainment of

1 student performance as specified by this section. To the
2 extent applicable, each measure shall be aggregated to the
3 school level based upon those grades served inclusive to
4 each school as reported by the respective school district
5 to the department of education. The indicators of school
6 level performance shall be:

7

8 (ii) Student academic achievement in reading,
9 mathematics, and science ~~and writing and language~~ as
10 measured by:

11

12 **21-2-304. Duties of the state board of education.**

13

14 (a) The state board of education shall:

15

16 (v) Through the director and in consultation and
17 coordination with local school districts, implement a
18 statewide assessment system comprised of a coherent system
19 of measures that when combined, provide a reliable and
20 valid measure of individual student achievement for each
21 public school and school district within the state, and the
22 performance of the state as a whole. Statewide assessment
23 system components shall be in accordance with requirements

1 of the statewide education accountability system pursuant
2 to W.S. 21-2-204. Improvement of teaching and learning in
3 schools, attaining student achievement targets for
4 performance indicators established under W.S. 21-2-204 and
5 fostering school program improvement shall be the primary
6 purposes of statewide assessment of student performance in
7 Wyoming. The statewide assessment system shall:

8
9 (B) Effective school year 2012-2013, and
10 each school year thereafter, be administered in specified
11 grades aligned to the student content and performance
12 standards, specifically assessing student performance in
13 reading and mathematics at grades three (3) through eight
14 (8). In addition, the statewide assessment system shall
15 assess student performance in science in grades four (4)
16 and eight (8); ~~As a component of the statewide assessment~~
17 ~~system but separately administered, the statewide writing~~
18 ~~and language assessment shall be a valid, reliable and~~
19 ~~robust measure of student writing and language according to~~
20 ~~the writing and language content and performance standards~~
21 ~~promulgated under paragraph (iii) of this subsection~~
22 ~~implementing the common core of knowledge and skills as~~
23 ~~required by W.S. 21-9-101, and shall allow for monitoring~~

1 ~~and evaluation of annual trends in student and school level~~
2 ~~writing and language performance. Effective school year~~
3 ~~2013-2014 and each school year thereafter, the statewide~~
4 ~~writing and language assessment shall be administered to~~
5 ~~grades three (3), five (5) and seven (7). The structure~~
6 ~~and design of the assessment system shall allow for the~~
7 ~~comprehensive measurement of student performance through~~
8 ~~assessments that are administered each school year~~
9 ~~simultaneously on a statewide basis, with the writing and~~
10 ~~language assessment administered separately statewide;~~

11

12 (E) Use only multiple choice items to
13 ensure alignment to the statewide content and performance
14 standards~~;~~. ~~For the writing and language assessment only,~~
15 ~~include multiple measures and item types to ensure~~
16 ~~alignment, which may include grade appropriate open~~
17 ~~response tasks, constructed and extended response items as~~
18 ~~appropriate;~~

19

20 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-2-204(c) (ii) (A) (III) is repealed.

21

22 **Section 3.** Notwithstanding any other provision of
23 law, the state board, the state superintendent and the

1 department of education shall cease any development or
2 administration of a separate writing assessment as a part
3 of the statewide assessment system required under W.S.
4 21-2-304.

5

6 **Section 4.** This act is effective immediately upon
7 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
8 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
9 Constitution.

10

11

(END)