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SENATE BILL 5479

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe and Shin

Read first time 01/26/11. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to high school mathematics and science assessments;  
2 amending RCW 28A.305.130 and 28A.655.100; adding new sections to  
3 chapter 28A.657 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an  
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature continues to recognize that  
7 providing students with rigorous mathematics and science instruction is  
8 crucial to giving all students the opportunity to obtain the  
9 foundational knowledge they need to be successful in college or the  
10 career of their choice. The legislature understands that school  
11 districts must continue to move forward with high expectations for  
12 students and therefore each school district should have a growth target  
13 to meet to ensure that progress is being made.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.657  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) By December 15, 2011, each school district board of directors  
17 shall:

1 (a) At an open public meeting, establish three-year, district-wide  
2 growth targets to increase, by the end of the 2014-15 school year, the  
3 percentage of students who meet or exceed the performance standards  
4 established for high school graduation on the high school mathematics  
5 and science state assessments;

6 (b) Direct each high school within the district to establish a  
7 three-year growth target. Each high school's growth target shall be  
8 subject to approval by the district board of directors. The aggregate  
9 of the high school growth targets must meet or exceed the district-wide  
10 growth targets established by the board of directors in accordance with  
11 (a) of this subsection; and

12 (c) At an open public meeting, establish district-wide and school-  
13 level plans to achieve the mathematics and science growth targets,  
14 which shall include efforts to address increasing graduation rates,  
15 dropout reduction, and school attendance. The plans may include  
16 addressing the performance of different student groups on assessments;  
17 strategic allocation of resources; frequency of monitoring of learning  
18 and teaching; focused professional development; supportive learning  
19 environments; high level of family and community involvement; and any  
20 unique circumstances or characteristics of the school district.

21 (2) The district growth targets shall be submitted to the state  
22 board of education. Using the board's accountability index, the board  
23 shall review the district growth targets. If the board determines that  
24 the growth targets are appropriate, the board shall approve the growth  
25 targets. If the board determines that the targets are not appropriate,  
26 the board shall work with the school district to develop appropriate  
27 growth targets that can be approved by the state board.

28 (3) Each school district board of directors shall report annually:

29 (a) To parents and the community in the school performance report  
30 under RCW 28A.655.110 and at a public meeting the following  
31 information:

32 (i) District-wide and school-level three-year growth targets;

33 (ii) Student performance relative to the growth targets  
34 disaggregated by at least the following subgroups of students: White,  
35 Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific  
36 Islander/Hawaiian Native, low-income, transitional bilingual, migrant,  
37 and special education students; and

1 (iii) District-wide and school-level plans to achieve the  
2 mathematics and science growth targets;

3 (b) To the state board of education and in a news release to the  
4 local media, the district's progress toward meeting the district-wide  
5 and school-level growth targets.

6 (4) By December 1, 2014, the state board of education shall report  
7 to the education committees of the house of representatives and the  
8 senate on the progress that has been made in achieving the three-year  
9 mathematics and science growth targets, and provide recommendations to  
10 the legislature on setting growth targets for the next three years.

11 (5) If, by December 1, 2014, a school district does not meet the  
12 district's approved growth targets, the school district must develop a  
13 plan for improvement to be reviewed and approved by the state board of  
14 education. The state board shall develop a process for the development  
15 and approval of a school district's improvement plan. The process  
16 shall be modeled after the required action process in this chapter but  
17 shall be streamlined and focused only on the achievement of the  
18 district growth targets. The state board of education shall develop  
19 additional measures to assess other nonassessment school improvements  
20 as directed in RCW 28A.305.130 to determine whether the school district  
21 is making improvements.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.305.130 and 2009 c 548 s 502 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 The purpose of the state board of education is to provide advocacy  
25 and strategic oversight of public education; implement a standards-  
26 based accountability framework that creates a unified system of  
27 increasing levels of support for schools in order to improve student  
28 academic achievement; provide leadership in the creation of a system  
29 that personalizes education for each student and respects diverse  
30 cultures, abilities, and learning styles; and promote achievement of  
31 the goals of RCW 28A.150.210. In addition to any other powers and  
32 duties as provided by law, the state board of education shall:

33 (1) Hold regularly scheduled meetings at such time and place within  
34 the state as the board shall determine and may hold such special  
35 meetings as may be deemed necessary for the transaction of public  
36 business;

1 (2) Form committees as necessary to effectively and efficiently  
2 conduct the work of the board;

3 (3) Seek advice from the public and interested parties regarding  
4 the work of the board;

5 (4) For purposes of statewide accountability:

6 (a) ~~((Adopt and revise performance improvement goals in reading,  
7 writing, science, and mathematics, by subject and grade level, once  
8 assessments in these subjects are required statewide; academic and  
9 technical skills, as appropriate, in secondary career and technical  
10 education programs; and student attendance, as the board deems  
11 appropriate to improve student learning. The goals shall be consistent  
12 with student privacy protection provisions of RCW 28A.655.090(7) and  
13 shall not conflict with requirements contained in Title I of the  
14 federal elementary and secondary education act of 1965, or the  
15 requirements of the Carl D. Perkins vocational education act of 1998,  
16 each as amended. The goals may be established for all students,  
17 economically disadvantaged students, limited English proficient  
18 students, students with disabilities, and students from  
19 disproportionately academically underachieving racial and ethnic  
20 backgrounds. The board may establish school and school district goals  
21 addressing high school graduation rates and dropout reduction goals for  
22 students in grades seven through twelve. The board shall adopt the  
23 goals by rule. However, before each goal is implemented, the board  
24 shall present the goal to the education committees of the house of  
25 representatives and the senate for the committees' review and comment  
26 in a time frame that will permit the legislature to take statutory  
27 action on the goal if such action is deemed warranted by the  
28 legislature))~~ (i) Using the accountability index developed by the  
29 board, review each of the three-year, district-wide growth targets  
30 established in accordance with section 2 of this act to increase the  
31 percentage of students who meet or exceed the performance standards  
32 established for high school graduation on the high school mathematics  
33 and science state assessments. If the board determines that a  
34 district's growth targets are reasonable, the board shall approve the  
35 growth targets. If the board determines that the targets are not  
36 reasonable, the board shall work with the school district to develop  
37 reasonable growth targets that can be approved by the state board;

1        (ii) Beginning December 1, 2014, for those districts that do not  
2 meet or exceed the growth target, review and, if appropriate, approve  
3 a school district's improvement plan. The board shall develop a  
4 process for approval of a school district's improvement plan. The  
5 process shall be modeled after the required action process in chapter  
6 28A.657 RCW but shall be streamlined and focused only on the  
7 achievement of the district growth targets. The state board of  
8 education shall develop additional measures to assess other  
9 nonassessment school improvements to determine whether the school  
10 district is making growth in nonassessment areas, such as dropout  
11 reduction and attendance, to be used as part of the accountability  
12 index or in addition to the index in the future;

13        (b) Identify the scores students must achieve in order to meet the  
14 standard on the Washington assessment of student learning and, for high  
15 school students, to obtain a certificate of academic achievement. The  
16 board shall also determine student scores that identify levels of  
17 student performance below and beyond the standard. The board shall  
18 consider the incorporation of the standard error of measurement into  
19 the decision regarding the award of the certificates. The board shall  
20 set such performance standards and levels in consultation with the  
21 superintendent of public instruction and after consideration of any  
22 recommendations that may be developed by any advisory committees that  
23 may be established for this purpose. The initial performance standards  
24 and any changes recommended by the board in the performance standards  
25 for the tenth grade assessment shall be presented to the education  
26 committees of the house of representatives and the senate by November  
27 30th of the school year in which the changes will take place to permit  
28 the legislature to take statutory action before the changes are  
29 implemented if such action is deemed warranted by the legislature. The  
30 legislature shall be advised of the initial performance standards and  
31 any changes made to the elementary level performance standards and the  
32 middle school level performance standards;

33        (c) Annually review the assessment reporting system to ensure  
34 fairness, accuracy, timeliness, and equity of opportunity, especially  
35 with regard to schools with special circumstances and unique  
36 populations of students, and a recommendation to the superintendent of  
37 public instruction of any improvements needed to the system; and

1 (d) Include in the biennial report required under RCW 28A.305.035,  
2 information on the progress that has been made in achieving goals  
3 adopted by the board;

4 (5) Accredite, subject to such accreditation standards and  
5 procedures as may be established by the state board of education, all  
6 private schools that apply for accreditation, and approve, subject to  
7 the provisions of RCW 28A.195.010, private schools carrying out a  
8 program for any or all of the grades kindergarten through twelve:  
9 PROVIDED, That no private school may be approved that operates a  
10 kindergarten program only: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no private schools  
11 shall be placed upon the list of accredited schools so long as secret  
12 societies are knowingly allowed to exist among its students by school  
13 officials;

14 (6) Articulate with the institutions of higher education, workforce  
15 representatives, and early learning policymakers and providers to  
16 coordinate and unify the work of the public school system;

17 (7) Hire an executive director and an administrative assistant to  
18 reside in the office of the superintendent of public instruction for  
19 administrative purposes. Any other personnel of the board shall be  
20 appointed as provided by RCW 28A.300.020. The board may delegate to  
21 the executive director by resolution such duties as deemed necessary to  
22 efficiently carry on the business of the board including, but not  
23 limited to, the authority to employ necessary personnel and the  
24 authority to enter into, amend, and terminate contracts on behalf of  
25 the board. The executive director, administrative assistant, and all  
26 but one of the other personnel of the board are exempt from civil  
27 service, together with other staff as now or hereafter designated as  
28 exempt in accordance with chapter 41.06 RCW; and

29 (8) Adopt a seal that shall be kept in the office of the  
30 superintendent of public instruction.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.657  
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 For purposes of statewide accountability, the state board of  
34 education may adopt and revise performance improvement goals in  
35 reading, writing, science, and mathematics, by subject and grade level,  
36 once assessments in these subjects are required statewide; academic and  
37 technical skills, as appropriate, in secondary career and technical

1 education programs; and student attendance, as the board deems  
2 appropriate to improve student learning. The goals shall be consistent  
3 with student privacy protection provisions of RCW 28A.655.090(7) and  
4 may not conflict with requirements contained in Title I of the federal  
5 elementary and secondary education act of 1965, or the requirements of  
6 the Carl D. Perkins vocational education act of 1998, each as amended.  
7 The goals may be established for all students, including economically  
8 disadvantaged students, limited English proficient students, students  
9 with disabilities, and students from disproportionately academically  
10 underachieving racial and ethnic backgrounds. The board may establish  
11 school and school district goals addressing high school graduation  
12 rates and dropout reduction goals for students in grades seven through  
13 twelve. The board shall adopt the goals by rule. However, before each  
14 goal is implemented, the board shall present the goal to the education  
15 committees of the house of representatives and the senate for the  
16 committees' review and comment in a time frame that will permit the  
17 legislature to take statutory action on the goal if such action is  
18 deemed warranted by the legislature.

19 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.655.100 and 1999 c 388 s 302 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) If the state board of education establishes performance  
22 improvement goals, each school district board of directors shall:

23 ~~((1))~~(a) Annually report to parents and to the community in a  
24 public meeting and annually report in writing the following  
25 information:

26 (i) District-wide and school-level performance improvement goals;  
27 (ii) Student performance relative to the goals; and  
28 (iii) District-wide and school-level plans to achieve the goals,  
29 including curriculum and instruction, parental or guardian involvement,  
30 and resources available to parents and guardians to help students meet  
31 the state standards;

32 (b) Report annually in a news release to the local media the  
33 district's progress toward meeting the district-wide and school-level  
34 goals; and

35 (c) Include the school-level goals, student performance relative to  
36 the goals, and a summary of school-level plans to achieve the goals in  
37 each school's annual school performance report under RCW 28A.655.110.

1           (2) School districts in which ten or fewer students in the district  
2 or in a school in the district are eligible to be assessed in a grade  
3 level are not required to report numerical improvement goals and  
4 performance relative to the goals, but are required to report to  
5 parents and the community their plans to improve student achievement.

6           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
8 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
9 immediately.

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