
SENATE BILL 6503

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators McDermott, Brandland, McAuliffe, and Rasmussen; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/17/08. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to approving the segmented mathematics assessment
2 as an alternative assessment; and reenacting and amending RCW
3 28A.655.061.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2007 c 355 s 5 and 2007 c 354 s 2 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

17 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
18 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
19 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met

1 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
2 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
3 28A.155.045 or 28A.655.0611, acquisition of the certificate is required
4 for graduation from a public high school but is not the only
5 requirement for graduation.

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

25 (4) Beginning no later than with the graduating class of 2013, a
26 student must meet the state standards in science in addition to the
27 other content areas required under subsection (3) of this section on
28 the Washington assessment of student learning or the objective
29 alternative assessments in order to earn a certificate of academic
30 achievement. The state board of education may adopt a rule that
31 implements the requirements of this subsection (4) beginning with a
32 graduating class before the graduating class of 2013, if the state
33 board of education adopts the rule by September 1st of the freshman
34 school year of the graduating class to which the requirements of this
35 subsection (4) apply. The state board of education's authority under
36 this subsection (4) does not alter the requirement that any change in
37 performance standards for the tenth grade assessment must comply with
38 RCW 28A.305.130.

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

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

8 (7) School districts must make available to students the following
9 options:

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

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

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

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

26 (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
27 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative
28 assessments, which may include an appeals process for students' scores,
29 for students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic
30 standards. The objective alternative assessments shall be comparable
31 in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate
32 on the Washington assessment of student learning and be objective in
33 its determination of student achievement of the state standards.
34 Before any objective alternative assessments in addition to those
35 authorized in RCW 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a
36 student to demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in
37 a content area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall

1 formally approve the use of any objective alternative assessments
2 through the omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent
3 resolution.

4 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English, or
5 writing portion of the scholastic assessment test (SAT) or the American
6 college test (ACT) may be used as an objective alternative assessment
7 under this section for demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded
8 the state standards for the certificate of academic achievement. The
9 state board of education shall identify the scores students must
10 achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT or ACT to meet or exceed the
11 state standard in the relevant content area on the Washington
12 assessment of student learning. The state board of education shall
13 identify the first scores by December 1, 2007. After the first scores
14 are established, the state board may increase but not decrease the
15 scores required for students to meet or exceed the state standards.

16 (ii) Until August 31, 2008, a student's score on the mathematics
17 portion of the preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) may be
18 used as an objective alternative assessment under this section for
19 demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded the state standard for
20 the certificate of academic achievement. The state board of education
21 shall identify the score students must achieve on the mathematics
22 portion of the PSAT to meet or exceed the state standard in that
23 content area on the Washington assessment of student learning.

24 (iii) A student who scores at least a three on the grading scale of
25 one to five for selected (~~(advance placement)~~) AP examinations may use
26 the score as an objective alternative assessment under this section for
27 demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded state standards for
28 the certificate of academic achievement. A score of three on the
29 (~~(advance placement)~~) AP examinations in calculus or statistics may be
30 used as an alternative assessment for the mathematics portion of the
31 Washington assessment of student learning. A score of three on the
32 (~~(advance placement)~~) AP examinations in English language and
33 composition may be used as an alternative assessment for the writing
34 portion of the Washington assessment of student learning. A score of
35 three on the (~~(advance placement)~~) AP examinations in English
36 literature and composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology,
37 United States history, world history, United States government and

1 politics, or comparative government and politics may be used as an
2 alternative assessment for the reading portion of the Washington
3 assessment of student learning.

4 (iv) Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, a student may use an
5 objective alternative assessment option for mathematics developed by
6 the superintendent of public instruction that: Presents the
7 mathematics essential academic learning requirements in segments; is
8 comparable in content and rigor to the high school mathematics
9 assessment when all segments are considered together; is reliable and
10 valid; is administered in conjunction with a segmented mathematics
11 course; and can be used to determine whether a student has met the high
12 school mathematics standard.

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

19 (12) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
20 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are
21 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare
22 plans for students as provided in this subsection (12).

23 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth
24 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content
25 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the
26 previous school year. The plan shall include the courses,
27 competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet
28 state academic standards and stay on track for graduation. If
29 applicable, the plan shall also include the high school completion
30 pilot program created under RCW 28B.50.534.

31 (i) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through a
32 parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
33 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
34 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
35 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's
36 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

37 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the

1 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the
2 plan made as necessary.

3 (b) All fifth grade students who were not successful in one or more
4 of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of
5 student learning shall have a student learning plan.

6 (i) The parent or guardian of the student shall be notified,
7 preferably through a parent conference, of the student's results on the
8 Washington assessment of student learning, actions the school intends
9 to take to improve the student's skills in any content area in which
10 the student was unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them
11 improve their student's skills.

12 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
13 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the
14 plan made as necessary.

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