

SENATE BILL 1144

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to state-mandated assessments.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year and annually thereafter, a state-mandated test administered to any student shall be administered only during the spring semester of the school year and subject to the following limitations:

(1) Reading and English language arts shall be administered annually for students in grades three (3) through ten (10);

(2) A writing assessment shall only be included with the English language arts examination;

(3) Mathematics shall be administered:

(A) Annually for students in grades three (3) through eight (8);

(B) One (1) time for algebra I in grade nine (9); and

(C) One (1) time for geometry in grade ten (10);

(4) Science shall be administered for students in grades five (5), eight (8), and ten (10);

(5) Biology shall be administered in grade ten (10);

(6) Social studies shall be administered for students in grades five (5) and eight (8);

(7) Students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall complete one (1) American history course pursuant to § 49-6-1202 and successfully pass a test on American history administered at the end of the course; and

(8)

(A) An examination assessing student readiness for postsecondary education as required by § 49-6-6001, which may include the ACT or SAT;

(B) If the ACT is taken to satisfy the requirements of § 49-6-6001, the student's ACT score shall be calculated as twenty-five percent (25%) of the student's course grade;

(C) For purposes of subdivision (a)(8)(B), the following ACT scores shall be calculated in the course grade for English III as follows:

- (i) Eighteen (18) or higher is the equivalent of an A;
- (ii) Sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) is the equivalent of a B;
- (iii) Fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) is the equivalent of a C;
- (iv) Twelve (12) or thirteen (13) is the equivalent of a D;

and

- (v) Eleven (11) or lower is the equivalent of an F;

(D) For purposes of subdivision (a)(8)(B), the following ACT scores shall be calculated in the course grade for algebra II as follows:

- (i) Twenty-two (22) or higher is the equivalent of an A;
- (ii) Nineteen (19) to twenty-one (21) is the equivalent of a B;
- (iii) Sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) is the equivalent of a C;
- (iv) Thirteen (13) to fifteen (15) is the equivalent of a D;

and

- (v) Twelve (12) or lower is the equivalent of an F;

(E) For purposes of subdivision (a)(8)(B), the following ACT scores shall be calculated in the course grade for chemistry or biology as follows:

(i) Twenty-three (23) or higher is the equivalent of an A;

(ii) Twenty (20) to twenty-two (22) is the equivalent of a B;

(iii) Seventeen (17) to nineteen (19) is the equivalent of a

C;

(iv) Fourteen (14) to sixteen (16) is the equivalent of a D;

and

(v) Thirteen (13) or lower is the equivalent of an F;

(E) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a)(8)(C)-(E), if a student scores at the ACT college readiness benchmark or higher, then that student shall receive the equivalent of an A in the course grade for English III, algebra II, chemistry, or biology.

(b) This section shall not apply to students with disabilities for whom testing is not appropriate based on the student's IEP.

(c) The state board of education shall make recommendations to the education committee of the senate, the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives, and the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives on the need for any future state-mandated assessments by February 1 of each year.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6003, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.