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SENATE BILL 6145

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 3rd Special Session

By Senators Fraser, Kohl-Welles, Pedersen, Hatfield, Billig, McCoy, Jayapal, Keiser, Conway, Cleveland, Mullet, Nelson, McAuliffe, Hobbs, Frockt, Lias, and Rolfes

Read first time 07/09/15.

1            AN ACT Relating to delaying for two years the high school  
2 graduation requirement of meeting the state standard on the high  
3 school science assessment; amending RCW 28A.655.061; and creating new  
4 sections.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that the graduating  
7 class of 2015 is the first class required to meet the state standard  
8 on the state science assessment. The legislature recognizes that the  
9 educational system needs more time before this graduation requirement  
10 is implemented. Therefore, the sole purpose of the legislature with  
11 this legislation is to delay for no more than two years, but not  
12 eliminate, the requirement that students must meet the state standard  
13 on the science assessment.

14            **Sec. 2.**    RCW 28A.655.061 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 22 s 2 are each  
15 amended to read as follows:

16            (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not  
17 be limited to the statewide student assessment, opportunities for a  
18 student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which the  
19 student was not successful, and, if approved by the legislature  
20 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, one or more objective

1 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of  
2 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for  
3 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and  
4 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the statewide student  
5 assessment for each content area.

6 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of  
7 academic achievement shall be obtained and is evidence that the  
8 students have successfully met the state standard in the content  
9 areas included in the certificate. With the exception of students  
10 satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045 or 28A.655.0611,  
11 acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation from a  
12 public high school but is not the only requirement for graduation.

13 (3)(a) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008 through the  
14 graduating class of 2015, with the exception of students satisfying  
15 the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who meets the state  
16 standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics high school  
17 statewide student assessment shall earn a certificate of academic  
18 achievement. The mathematics assessment shall be the end-of-course  
19 assessment for the first year of high school mathematics that  
20 assesses the standards common to algebra I and integrated mathematics  
21 I or the end-of-course assessment for the second year of high school  
22 mathematics that assesses standards common to geometry and integrated  
23 mathematics II.

24 (b) As the state transitions from reading and writing assessments  
25 to an English language arts assessment and from end-of-course  
26 assessments to a comprehensive assessment for high school  
27 mathematics, a student in a graduating class of 2016 through 2018  
28 shall earn a certificate of academic achievement if the student meets  
29 the state standard as follows:

30 (i) Students in the graduating class of 2016 may use the results  
31 from:

32 (A) The reading and writing assessment or the English language  
33 arts assessment developed with the multistate consortium; and

34 (B) The end-of-course assessment for the first year of high  
35 school mathematics, the end-of-course assessment for the second year  
36 of high school mathematics, or the comprehensive mathematics  
37 assessment developed with the multistate consortium.

38 (ii) Students in the graduating classes of 2017 and 2018 may use  
39 the results from:

1 (A) The tenth grade English language arts assessment developed by  
2 the superintendent of public instruction using resources from the  
3 multistate consortium or the English language arts assessment  
4 developed with the multistate consortium; and

5 (B) The end-of-course assessment for the first year of high  
6 school mathematics, the end-of-course assessment for the second year  
7 of high school mathematics, or the comprehensive mathematics  
8 assessment developed with the multistate consortium.

9 (c) Beginning with the graduating class of 2019, a student who  
10 meets the state standards on the high school English language arts  
11 assessment developed with the multistate consortium and the  
12 comprehensive mathematics assessment developed with the multistate  
13 consortium shall earn a certificate of academic achievement.

14 (d) If a student does not successfully meet the state standards  
15 in one or more content areas required for the certificate of academic  
16 achievement, then the student may retake the assessment in the  
17 content area at least twice a year at no cost to the student. If the  
18 student successfully meets the state standards on a retake of the  
19 assessment then the student shall earn a certificate of academic  
20 achievement. Once objective alternative assessments are authorized  
21 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, a student may use the  
22 objective alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student  
23 successfully meets the state standards for that content area if the  
24 student has taken the statewide student assessment at least once. If  
25 the student successfully meets the state standards on the objective  
26 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of  
27 academic achievement.

28 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of (~~(2015)~~) 2017, a  
29 student must meet the state standards in science in addition to the  
30 other content areas required under subsection (3) of this section on  
31 the statewide student assessment, a retake, or the objective  
32 alternative assessments in order to earn a certificate of academic  
33 achievement.

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

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

1 (7) School districts must make available to students the  
2 following options:

3 (a) To retake the statewide student assessment at least twice a  
4 year in the content areas in which the student did not meet the state  
5 standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

6 (b) To retake the statewide student assessment at least twice a  
7 year in the content areas in which the student did not meet the state  
8 standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion  
9 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of  
10 public instruction and the state board for community and technical  
11 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these  
12 programs can be assessed.

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

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

19 (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
20 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative  
21 assessments, which may include an appeals process for students'  
22 scores, for students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic  
23 standards. The objective alternative assessments shall be comparable  
24 in rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must  
25 demonstrate on the statewide student assessment and be objective in  
26 its determination of student achievement of the state standards.  
27 Before any objective alternative assessments in addition to those  
28 authorized in RCW 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a  
29 student to demonstrate that the student has met the state standards  
30 in a content area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature  
31 shall formally approve the use of any objective alternative  
32 assessments through the omnibus appropriations act or by statute or  
33 concurrent resolution.

34 (b)(i) A student's score on the mathematics, reading or English,  
35 or writing portion of the SAT or the ACT may be used as an objective  
36 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a  
37 student has met or exceeded the state standards for the certificate  
38 of academic achievement. The state board of education shall identify  
39 the scores students must achieve on the relevant portion of the SAT  
40 or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard in the relevant content

1 area on the statewide student assessment. A student's score on the  
2 science portion of the ACT or the science subject area tests of the  
3 SAT may be used as an objective alternative assessment under this  
4 section as soon as the state board of education determines that  
5 sufficient data is available to identify reliable equivalent scores  
6 for the science content area of the statewide student assessment.  
7 After the first scores are established, the state board may increase  
8 but not decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed  
9 the state standards.

10 (ii) A student who scores at least a three on the grading scale  
11 of one to five for selected AP examinations may use the score as an  
12 objective alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating  
13 that a student has met or exceeded state standards for the  
14 certificate of academic achievement. A score of three on the AP  
15 examinations in calculus or statistics may be used as an alternative  
16 assessment for the mathematics portion of the statewide student  
17 assessment. A score of three on the AP examinations in English  
18 language and composition may be used as an alternative assessment for  
19 the writing portion of the statewide student assessment; and for the  
20 English language arts portion of the assessment developed with the  
21 multistate consortium, once established in the 2014-15 school year. A  
22 score of three on the AP examinations in English literature and  
23 composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United  
24 States history, world history, United States government and politics,  
25 or comparative government and politics may be used as an alternative  
26 assessment for the reading portion of the statewide student  
27 assessment; and for the English language arts portion of the  
28 assessment developed with the multistate consortium, once established  
29 in the 2014-15 school year. A score of three on the AP examination in  
30 biology, physics, chemistry, or environmental science may be used as  
31 an alternative assessment for the science portion of the statewide  
32 student assessment.

33 (iii) A student who scores at least a four on selected externally  
34 administered international baccalaureate (IB) examinations may use  
35 the score as an objective alternative assessment under this section  
36 for demonstrating that the student has met or exceeded state  
37 standards for the certificate of academic achievement. A score of  
38 four on the higher level IB examinations for any of the IB English  
39 language and literature courses or for any of the IB individuals and  
40 societies courses may be used as an alternative assessment for the

1 reading, writing, or English language arts portions of the statewide  
2 student assessment. A score of four on the higher level IB  
3 examinations for any of the IB mathematics courses may be used as an  
4 alternative assessment for the mathematics portion of the statewide  
5 student assessment. A score of four on the higher level IB  
6 examinations for IB biology, chemistry, or physics may be used as an  
7 alternative assessment for the science portion of the statewide  
8 student assessment.

9 (11) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as  
10 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students  
11 are on track for high school graduation, each school district shall  
12 prepare plans for and notify students and their parents or legal  
13 guardians as provided in this subsection. Student learning plans are  
14 required for eighth grade students who were not successful on any or  
15 all of the content areas of the state assessment during the previous  
16 school year or who may not be on track to graduate due to credit  
17 deficiencies or absences. The parent or legal guardian shall be  
18 notified about the information in the student learning plan,  
19 preferably through a parent conference and at least annually. To the  
20 extent feasible, schools serving English language learner students  
21 and their parents shall translate the plan into the primary language  
22 of the family. The plan shall include the following information as  
23 applicable:

24 (a) The student's results on the state assessment;

25 (b) If the student is in the transitional bilingual program, the  
26 score on his or her Washington language proficiency test II;

27 (c) Any credit deficiencies;

28 (d) The student's attendance rates over the previous two years;

29 (e) The student's progress toward meeting state and local  
30 graduation requirements;

31 (f) The courses, competencies, and other steps needed to be taken  
32 by the student to meet state academic standards and stay on track for  
33 graduation;

34 (g) Remediation strategies and alternative education options  
35 available to students, including informing students of the option to  
36 continue to receive instructional services after grade twelve or  
37 until the age of twenty-one;

38 (h) The alternative assessment options available to students  
39 under this section and RCW 28A.655.065;

1 (i) School district programs, high school courses, and career and  
2 technical education options available for students to meet graduation  
3 requirements; and

4 (j) Available programs offered through skill centers or community  
5 and technical colleges, including the college high school diploma  
6 options under RCW 28B.50.535.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act applies  
8 retroactively to students in the graduating class of 2015, and  
9 prospectively beginning with students in the graduating class of  
10 2016.

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