
SENATE BILL 6552

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senator McAuliffe

Read first time 01/26/16. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing school districts with an assessment
2 inventory tool to streamline the assessment system; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
4 28A.320 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration
5 date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that educators,
8 parents, and students are concerned that there are too many
9 assessments that are taking valuable time away from teaching and
10 learning. The legislature further finds that school district
11 officials have the opportunity to respond to concerns about
12 overassessment by leading a conversation among educators and the
13 broader community that directly addresses the amount of assessments
14 and points the way toward a more coherent, educationally sound
15 approach to assessment. The legislature intends to provide school
16 districts with an assessment inventory tool for school districts to
17 identify the student assessments administered within the district and
18 determine the amount of student time that is spent taking each
19 assessment. The legislature further intends to have the Washington
20 institute for public policy determine the minimum amount of
21 assessment information necessary for essential diagnostic,

1 instructional, and accountability purposes; to analyze the school
2 district information to evaluate whether the assessments are
3 providing the information necessary for their specific purpose; and
4 to identify any assessments that are duplicative or unnecessary.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The superintendent of public instruction shall take the following
8 actions:

9 (1) Obtain an existing student assessment inventory tool and
10 distribute it to each school district to be used to identify the
11 student assessments administered within the district and determine
12 the amount of student time that is spent taking each assessment. The
13 tool shall be openly licensed to provide free access for school
14 districts and allow for modifications, as needed, to address district
15 differences; and

16 (2) Take all necessary steps to access federal grant funding to
17 audit state and local student assessment systems under this section
18 and section 3 of this act.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1)(a) Each school district shall use the student assessment
22 inventory tool distributed by the superintendent of public
23 instruction under section 2 of this act to:

24 (i) Identify the student assessments administered within the
25 district, including practice and training tests and formative and
26 summative assessments; and

27 (ii) Ascertain the amount of student time that is spent taking
28 each assessment.

29 (b) Each district may use the assessment inventory tool and the
30 information gathered under (a) of this subsection to:

31 (i) Engage educators and the broader community to build a shared
32 understanding of what purpose each assessment is designed to serve,
33 point out both gaps and redundancies overall and for specific
34 populations of students, identify lack of alignment between standards
35 and assessments, identify low-quality assessments, illuminate the
36 resources spent on assessments, and highlight which assessments
37 provide information that is useful to teachers and students and which
38 assessments do not; and

1 (ii) Determine whether each district or local assessment is
2 providing the information necessary for its specific purposes and
3 identify any assessments that are duplicative or unnecessary.

4 (c) By September 1, 2017, each school district shall report the
5 information gathered under (a) of this subsection to the Washington
6 state institute for public policy. The report should reflect the
7 amount of student time disaggregated for each identified assessment
8 by grade level and school.

9 (2) By September 1, 2018, the Washington state institute for
10 public policy shall:

11 (a) Determine the minimum amount of assessment information
12 necessary for essential diagnostic, instructional, and federal,
13 state, and school district accountability purposes;

14 (b) Evaluate the school district information provided under
15 subsection (1)(b) of this section to determine whether each
16 assessment is providing the information necessary for its specific
17 purposes;

18 (c) Identify any assessments that are duplicative or unnecessary;
19 and

20 (d) Report to the legislative education committees of the house
21 of representatives and the senate by September 1, 2018.

22 (3) This section expires December 31, 2018.

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