
HOUSE BILL 2695

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Brumsickle and B. Thomas; by request of Joint Select Committee on Education Restructuring, Board of Education and Commission on Student Learning

Read first time 01/16/96. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the timelines for the development and
2 implementation of the student assessment system; reenacting and
3 amending RCW 28A.630.885; repealing 1995 c 335 s 803 (uncodified); and
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.630.885 and 1995 c 335 s 505 and 1995 c 209 s 1
7 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby
9 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify
10 the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be
11 able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to
12 develop student assessment and school accountability systems, to review
13 current school district data reporting requirements and make
14 recommendations on what data is necessary for the purposes of
15 accountability and meeting state information needs, and to take other
16 steps necessary to develop a performance-based education system. The
17 commission shall include three members of the state board of education,
18 three members appointed by the governor before July 1, 1992, and five
19 members appointed no later than June 1, 1993, by the governor elected

1 in the November 1992 election. The governor shall appoint a chair from
2 the commission members, and fill any vacancies in gubernatorial
3 appointments that may occur. The state board of education shall fill
4 any vacancies of state board of education appointments that may occur.
5 In making the appointments, educators, business leaders, and parents
6 shall be represented, and nominations from state-wide education,
7 business, and parent organizations shall be requested. Efforts shall
8 be made to ensure that the commission reflects the racial and ethnic
9 diversity of the state's K-12 student population and that the major
10 geographic regions in the state are represented. Appointees shall be
11 qualified individuals who are supportive of educational restructuring,
12 who have a positive record of service, and who will devote sufficient
13 time to the responsibilities of the commission to ensure that the
14 objectives of the commission are achieved.

15 (2) The commission shall establish advisory committees. Membership
16 of the advisory committees shall include, but not necessarily be
17 limited to, professionals from the office of the superintendent of
18 public instruction and the state board of education, and other state
19 and local educational practitioners and student assessment specialists.

20 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,
21 shall:

22 (a) Develop essential academic learning requirements based on the
23 student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Essential academic learning
24 requirements shall be developed, to the extent possible, for each of
25 the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall
26 be considered primary. Essential academic learning requirements for
27 RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the mathematics component of RCW
28 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be completed no later than March 1,
29 1995. Essential academic learning requirements that incorporate the
30 remainder of RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two, three, and
31 four, shall be completed no later than March 1, 1996. To the maximum
32 extent possible, the commission shall integrate goal four and the
33 knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the development of the
34 essential academic learning requirements;

35 (b)(i) The commission shall present to the state board of education
36 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic
37 assessment system for use in the elementary, middle, and high school
38 years designed to determine if each student has mastered the essential
39 academic learning requirements identified in (a) of this subsection.

1 The academic assessment system shall include a variety of assessment
2 methods that are criterion-referenced, including performance-based
3 measures (~~((that are criterion-referenced))~~). Performance standards for
4 determining if a student has successfully completed an assessment shall
5 be initially determined by the commission in consultation with the
6 advisory committees required in subsection (2) of this section.

7 (ii) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results
8 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to evaluate
9 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational
10 support for students who have not mastered the essential academic
11 learning requirements at the appropriate periods in the student's
12 educational development.

13 (iii) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning
14 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the
15 mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be
16 (~~((initially implemented by the state board of education and
17 superintendent of public instruction no later than the 1996-97 school
18 year,))~~) developed and initially implemented by the commission before
19 transferring the assessment system to the superintendent of public
20 instruction. For goal one and the mathematics component of goal two,
21 the elementary assessment shall be available for use by districts no
22 later than the 1996-97 school year, the middle grades assessment no
23 later than the 1997-98 school year, and the high school assessment no
24 later than the 1998-99 school year unless the legislature takes action
25 to delay or prevent implementation of the assessment system and
26 essential academic learning requirements. The assessment system shall
27 be transferred to the superintendent of public instruction no later
28 than June 30, 1999, for continued implementation. Assessments
29 measuring the essential academic learning requirements developed for
30 RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two, three, and four, shall be
31 (~~((initially implemented by the state board of education and))~~) developed
32 and initially implemented by the commission before transferring the
33 assessments to the superintendent of public instruction, unless the
34 legislature takes action to delay or prevent implementation of the
35 assessment system and essential academic learning requirements. The
36 assessments shall be transferred to the superintendent of public
37 instruction no later than ((the 1998-99 school year, unless the
38 legislature takes action to delay or prevent implementation of the
39 assessment system and essential academic learning requirements)) June

1 30, 1999, for continued implementation. The commission shall work
2 closely with the superintendent of public instruction and the state
3 board of education during the development and initial implementation of
4 the assessment system. To the maximum extent possible, the commission
5 shall integrate knowledge and skill areas in development of the
6 assessments.

7 (iv) Before the 2000-2001 school year, participation by school
8 districts in the assessment system shall be optional. School districts
9 that desire to participate before the 2000-2001 school year shall
10 notify the commission on student learning or the superintendent of
11 public instruction, as appropriate, in a manner determined by the
12 commission or superintendent. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year,
13 all school districts shall be required to participate in the assessment
14 system.

15 (v) The state board of education and superintendent of public
16 instruction may modify the essential academic learning requirements and
17 academic assessment system, as needed, (~~in subsequent school years~~)
18 after June 30, 1999.

19 (vi) The commission shall develop assessments that are directly
20 related to the essential academic learning requirements, and are not
21 biased toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic
22 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender;

23 (c) After a determination is made by the state board of education
24 that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it
25 is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high
26 school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The
27 certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most students at about the
28 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student has successfully
29 mastered the essential academic learning requirements during his or her
30 educational career. The certificate of mastery shall be required for
31 graduation but shall not be the only requirement for graduation. The
32 commission shall make recommendations to the state board of education
33 regarding the relationship between the certificate of mastery and high
34 school graduation requirements. Upon achieving the certificate of
35 mastery, schools shall provide students with the opportunity to
36 continue to pursue career and educational objectives through
37 educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and
38 vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not
39 limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work

1 transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,
2 and preparation for technical college, community college, or university
3 education;

4 (d) Consider methods to address the unique needs of special
5 education students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of
6 this subsection;

7 (e) Consider methods to address the unique needs of highly capable
8 students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of this
9 subsection;

10 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,
11 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts
12 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.
13 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,
14 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost
15 of implementing the academic assessment system;

16 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher
17 education coordinating board for adopting college and university
18 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent
19 with the essential academic learning requirements and the certificate
20 of mastery;

21 (h) Review current school district data reporting requirements for
22 the purposes of accountability and meeting state information needs.
23 The commission on student learning shall report recommendations to the
24 joint select committee on education restructuring by September 15,
25 1996, on:

26 (i) What data is necessary to compare how school districts are
27 performing before the essential academic learning requirements and the
28 assessment system are implemented with how school districts are
29 performing after the essential academic learning requirements and the
30 assessment system are implemented; and

31 (ii) What data is necessary pertaining to school district reports
32 under the accountability systems developed by the commission on student
33 learning under this section;

34 (i) By June 30, 1999, recommend to the legislature, governor, state
35 board of education, and superintendent of public instruction:

36 (i) A state-wide accountability system to monitor and evaluate
37 accurately and fairly the level of learning occurring in individual
38 schools and school districts. The accountability system shall be
39 designed to recognize the characteristics of the student population of

1 schools and school districts such as gender, race, ethnicity,
2 socioeconomic status, and other factors. The system shall include
3 school-site, school district, and state-level accountability reports;

4 (ii) A school assistance program to help schools and school
5 districts that are having difficulty helping students meet the
6 essential academic learning requirements;

7 (iii) A system to intervene in schools and school districts in
8 which significant numbers of students persistently fail to learn the
9 essential academic learning requirements; and

10 (iv) An awards program to provide incentives to school staff to
11 help their students learn the essential academic learning requirements,
12 with each school being assessed individually against its own baseline.
13 Incentives shall be based on the rate of percentage change of students
14 achieving the essential academic learning requirements. School staff
15 shall determine how the awards will be spent.

16 It is the intent of the legislature to begin implementation of
17 programs in this subsection (3)(i) on September 1, 2000;

18 (j) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the
19 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board
20 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the
21 commission; and

22 (k) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions
23 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning
24 goals.

25 (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the state
26 board of education and the office of the superintendent of public
27 instruction.

28 (5) The commission shall seek advice broadly from the public and
29 all interested educational organizations in the conduct of its work,
30 including holding periodic regional public hearings.

31 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support
32 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
33 provide administrative oversight and be the fiscal agent for the
34 commission. The commission may direct the office of the superintendent
35 of public instruction to enter into subcontracts, within the
36 commission's resources, with school districts, teachers, higher
37 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other
38 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its
39 deliberations.

1 (7) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for travel
2 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

3 (8) This section expires June 30, 1999.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** 1995 c 335 s 803 (uncodified) is repealed.

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