
SENATE BILL 5849

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Wellman, Nobles, Boehnke, Frame, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kuderer, Nguyen, Shewmake, Trudeau, and C. Wilson

Prefiled 12/15/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a computer science competency graduation
2 requirement; amending RCW 28A.655.070; adding a new section to
3 chapter 28A.230 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) Beginning with the 2029 graduating class, all students
9 shall be required to show competency in the high school learning
10 standards related to computer science in order to graduate from high
11 school. Students may demonstrate this computer science competency
12 graduation requirement through:

13 (i) Completion of a stand-alone computer science course aligned
14 to the state learning standards;

15 (ii) Completion of a different subject matter course where the
16 state computer science learning standards are embedded with other
17 learning standards; or

18 (iii) A demonstration of competency of the foundational skills
19 established in the computer science state learning standards.

20 (b) The demonstration of competency could include completion of a
21 competency examination as established in RCW 28A.230.300 or any of

1 the options allowed by the rules adopted by the state board of
2 education under RCW 28A.230.090 that address mastery-based crediting,
3 such as: (i) Completing a locally established portfolio or
4 culminating project; (ii) participating in supervised work experience
5 or other outside school experience; (iii) taking career and technical
6 education classes; (iv) taking courses offered by regional or
7 community centers or programs; (v) receiving credits earned at a
8 postsecondary institution; or (vi) providing documentation of a prior
9 learning activity that demonstrates proficiency of the identified
10 learning standards.

11 (c) Consideration of seat time or instructional hours is not
12 required to demonstrate competency for purposes of this section.

13 (d) Students must be allowed to present multiple types of
14 evidence for the demonstration of competency.

15 (2) Students in grade 12 who have not been able to show computer
16 science competency because of previous residence outside the state
17 may have the requirement of this section waived by their principal.

18 (3) Nothing in this section increases the number of high school
19 credits required for graduation as established by the state board of
20 education under RCW 28A.230.090.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
22 public instruction shall initiate a review and update of the state
23 computer science learning standards for students in grades
24 kindergarten through 12. In developing the update of the state
25 computer science learning standards, the office of the superintendent
26 of public instruction shall review computer science learning
27 standards adopted by other states and consult with nonprofit
28 organizations that have a demonstrated expertise in assisting states
29 in developing computer science learning standards.

30 (2) This section expires July 1, 2026.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.070 and 2019 c 252 s 119 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop state
34 learning standards that identify the knowledge and skills all public
35 school students need to know and be able to do based on the student
36 learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, develop student assessments, and
37 implement the accountability recommendations and requests regarding
38 assistance, rewards, and recognition of the state board of education.

1 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall:

2 (a) Periodically revise the state learning standards, as needed,
3 based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and
4 two shall be considered primary. To the maximum extent possible, the
5 superintendent shall integrate ((goal four)) technology literacy and
6 fluency from goal three and the knowledge and skill areas in the
7 other goals in the state learning standards; and

8 (b) Review and prioritize the state learning standards and
9 identify, with clear and concise descriptions, the grade level
10 content expectations to be assessed on the statewide student
11 assessment and used for state or federal accountability purposes. The
12 review, prioritization, and identification shall result in more focus
13 and targeting with an emphasis on depth over breadth in the number of
14 grade level content expectations assessed at each grade level. Grade
15 level content expectations shall be articulated over the grades as a
16 sequence of expectations and performances that are logical, build
17 with increasing depth after foundational knowledge and skills are
18 acquired, and reflect, where appropriate, the sequential nature of
19 the discipline. The office of the superintendent of public
20 instruction, within seven working days, shall post on its website any
21 grade level content expectations provided to an assessment vendor for
22 use in constructing the statewide student assessment.

23 (3)(a) In consultation with the state board of education, the
24 superintendent of public instruction shall maintain and continue to
25 develop and revise a statewide academic assessment system in the
26 content areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science for use
27 in the elementary, middle, and high school years designed to
28 determine if each student has mastered the state learning standards
29 identified in subsection (1) of this section. School districts shall
30 administer the assessments under guidelines adopted by the
31 superintendent of public instruction. The academic assessment system
32 may include a variety of assessment methods, including criterion-
33 referenced and performance-based measures.

34 (b) Effective with the 2009 administration of the Washington
35 assessment of student learning and continuing with the statewide
36 student assessment, the superintendent shall redesign the assessment
37 in the content areas of reading, mathematics, and science in all
38 grades except high school by shortening test administration and
39 reducing the number of short answer and extended response questions.

1 (c) By the 2014-15 school year, the superintendent of public
2 instruction, in consultation with the state board of education, shall
3 modify the statewide student assessment system to transition to
4 assessments developed with a multistate consortium, as provided in
5 this subsection:

6 (i) The assessments developed with a multistate consortium to
7 assess student proficiency in English language arts and mathematics
8 shall be administered beginning in the 2014-15 school year, and
9 beginning with the graduating class of 2020, the assessments must be
10 administered to students in the tenth grade. The reading and writing
11 assessments shall not be administered by the superintendent of public
12 instruction or schools after the 2013-14 school year.

13 (ii) The high school assessments in English language arts and
14 mathematics in (c)(i) of this subsection shall be used for the
15 purposes of federal and state accountability and for assessing
16 student career and college readiness.

17 (d) The statewide academic assessment system must also include
18 the Washington access to instruction and measurement assessment for
19 students with significant cognitive challenges.

20 (4) If the superintendent proposes any modification to the state
21 learning standards or the statewide assessments, then the
22 superintendent shall, upon request, provide opportunities for the
23 education committees of the house of representatives and the senate
24 to review the assessments and proposed modifications to the state
25 learning standards before the modifications are adopted.

26 (5) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results
27 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to
28 evaluate instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate
29 educational support for students who have not mastered the state
30 learning standards at the appropriate periods in the student's
31 educational development.

32 (6) By September 2007, the results for reading and mathematics
33 shall be reported in a format that will allow parents and teachers to
34 determine the academic gain a student has acquired in those content
35 areas from one school year to the next.

36 (7) To assist parents and teachers in their efforts to provide
37 educational support to individual students, the superintendent of
38 public instruction shall provide as much individual student
39 performance information as possible within the constraints of the

1 assessment system's item bank. The superintendent shall also provide
2 to school districts:

3 (a) Information on classroom-based and other assessments that may
4 provide additional achievement information for individual students;
5 and

6 (b) A collection of diagnostic tools that educators may use to
7 evaluate the academic status of individual students. The tools shall
8 be designed to be inexpensive, easily administered, and quickly and
9 easily scored, with results provided in a format that may be easily
10 shared with parents and students.

11 (8) To the maximum extent possible, the superintendent shall
12 integrate knowledge and skill areas in development of the
13 assessments.

14 (9) Assessments for goals three and four of RCW 28A.150.210 shall
15 be integrated in the state learning standards and assessments for
16 goals one and two.

17 (10) The superintendent shall develop assessments that are
18 directly related to the state learning standards, and are not biased
19 toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic
20 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender.

21 (11) The superintendent shall review available and appropriate
22 options for competency-based assessments that meet the state learning
23 standards. In accordance with the review required by this subsection,
24 the superintendent shall provide a report and recommendations to the
25 education committees of the house of representatives and the senate
26 by November 1, 2019.

27 (12) The superintendent shall consider methods to address the
28 unique needs of special education students when developing the
29 assessments under this section.

30 (13) The superintendent shall consider methods to address the
31 unique needs of highly capable students when developing the
32 assessments under this section.

33 (14) The superintendent shall post on the superintendent's
34 website lists of resources and model assessments in social studies,
35 the arts, and health and fitness.

36 (15) The superintendent shall integrate financial education
37 skills and content knowledge into the state learning standards
38 pursuant to RCW 28A.300.460(2)(d).

39 (16)(a) The superintendent shall notify the state board of
40 education in writing before initiating the development or revision of

1 the state learning standards under subsections (1) and (2) of this
2 section. The notification must be provided to the state board of
3 education in advance for review at a regularly scheduled or special
4 board meeting and must include the following information:

5 (i) The subject matter of the state learning standards;

6 (ii) The reason or reasons the superintendent is initiating the
7 development or revision; and

8 (iii) The process and timeline that the superintendent intends to
9 follow for the development or revision.

10 (b) The state board of education may provide a response to the
11 superintendent's notification for consideration in the development or
12 revision process in (a) of this subsection.

13 (c) Prior to adoption by the superintendent of any new or revised
14 state learning standards, the superintendent shall submit the
15 proposed new or revised state learning standards to the state board
16 of education in advance in writing for review at a regularly
17 scheduled or special board meeting. The state board of education may
18 provide a response to the superintendent's proposal for consideration
19 prior to final adoption.

20 (17) The state board of education may propose new or revised
21 state learning standards to the superintendent. The superintendent
22 must respond to the state board of education's proposal in writing.

--- END ---