

Chapter 28A.655 RCW
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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RCW 28A.655.005 Findings. The legislature finds that the purpose of Washington's accountability system is to improve student learning and student achievement of the essential academic learning requirement standards so that each individual student will be given the opportunity to become a responsible citizen and successfully live, learn, and work in the twenty-first century. To achieve this purpose, the accountability system should be based on student achievement and

continuous improvement at all levels of Washington's education system and on a fundamental principle that all public school students have access to curriculum and instruction that is aligned to the standards.

The legislature further finds that the accountability system should rely on local responsibility and leadership. Districts and schools should be expected to improve and be evaluated based on their improvement over time. Districts should recognize exceptional progress and work closely with schools needing assistance.

The legislature further finds that the accountability system must be simple to use and understand. Consequences must be predictable and fair. Differences among students, schools, and districts should be recognized and respected as the system is implemented. There should be a balance of each student's right to privacy and the public's right to know the overall levels of learning and achievement at the school, district, and state levels. In addition, the accountability system should be continuously reviewed and improved as more is learned about how schools operate to meet the learning needs of Washington's students. [1999 c 388 s 1.]

RCW 28A.655.006 Condensed compliance reports—Second-class districts. Any compliance reporting requirements as a result of laws in this chapter that apply to second-class districts may be submitted in accordance with RCW 28A.330.250. [2011 c 45 s 50.]

Conflict with federal requirements—2011 c 45: See note following RCW 28A.330.250.

RCW 28A.655.010 Washington commission on student learning—Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW *28A.630.885 and 28A.300.130.

(1) "Commission" means the commission on student learning created in *RCW 28A.630.885.

(2) "Student learning goals" mean[s] the goals established in RCW 28A.150.210.

(3) "Essential academic learning requirements" means more specific academic and technical skills and knowledge, based on the student learning goals, as determined under *RCW 28A.630.885(3)(a). Essential academic learning requirements shall not limit the instructional strategies used by schools or school districts or require the use of specific curriculum.

(4) "Performance standards" or "standards" means the criteria used to determine if a student has successfully learned the specific knowledge or skill being assessed as determined under *RCW 28A.630.885(3)(b). The standards should be set at internationally competitive levels.

(5) "Assessment system" or "student assessment system" means a series of assessments used to determine if students have successfully learned the essential academic learning requirements. The assessment system shall be developed under *RCW 28A.630.885(3)(b).

(6) "Performance-based education system" means an education system in which a significantly greater emphasis is placed on how well students are learning, and significantly less emphasis is placed on state-level laws and rules that dictate how instruction is to be

provided. The performance-based education system does not require that schools use an outcome-based instructional model. Decisions regarding how instruction is provided are to be made, to the greatest extent possible, by schools and school districts, not by the state. [1993 c 336 s 201. Formerly RCW 28A.630.883.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 28A.630.885 was recodified as RCW 28A.655.060 pursuant to 1999 c 388 s 607. RCW 28A.655.060 was subsequently repealed by 2004 c 19 s 206.

Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—1993 c 336: See notes following RCW 28A.150.210.

Findings—1993 c 336: See note following RCW 28A.150.210.

RCW 28A.655.068 Statewide high school assessment in science.

(1) The statewide high school assessment in science shall be a comprehensive assessment that measures the state standards for the application of science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts in the domains of physical sciences, life sciences, earth and space sciences, and engineering design.

(2) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop or adopt a science assessment in accordance with RCW 28A.655.070(10) that is not biased toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic backgrounds, or on the basis of gender.

(3) The superintendent of public instruction may participate with consortia of multiple states as common student learning standards and assessments in science are developed. The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the state board of education, may modify the state learning standards and statewide student assessments in science, including the high school assessment, according to the multistate common student learning standards and assessments as long as the education committees of the legislature have opportunities for review before the modifications are adopted, as provided under RCW 28A.655.070.

(4) The statewide high school assessment under this section shall be used to demonstrate that a student meets the state standards in the science content area of the statewide student assessment until a comprehensive science assessment is required under *RCW 28A.655.061. [2019 c 252 s 118; 2017 3rd sp.s. c 31 s 6; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 22 s 4; 2011 1st sp.s. c 22 s 3.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 28A.655.061 expired August 31, 2022.

Intent—2019 c 252: See note following RCW 28A.230.710.

Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 31: See note following RCW 28A.305.130.

Findings—Intent—2013 2nd sp.s. c 22: "The legislature finds that the superintendent of public instruction was authorized to align the state essential academic learning requirements for mathematics, reading, writing, and communication with the common set of standards for students in grades kindergarten through twelve, known as the common core state standards, which were initiated by the governors and chief school officers of forty-five states, including Washington. The

legislature further finds that Washington has joined one of two multistate consortia using a federal grant to develop new English language arts and mathematics assessments in grades three through eight and grade eleven that are, among other factors, aligned with the common core state standards and intended to demonstrate a student's career and college readiness. The legislature further finds that the assessments are required to be ready for use by the 2014-15 school year.

The legislature intends to reduce the overall costs of the state assessment system by implementing the eleventh grade English language arts and mathematics assessments being developed by a multistate consortium in which Washington is participating, maximize use of the consortium assessments by developing a tenth grade high school English language arts assessment and modifying the algebra I and geometry end-of-course assessment to be used only during the transition to the consortium-developed assessments, and reduce to three the number of assessments that will be required for students to graduate beginning with the class of 2019.

The legislature further intends that the eleventh grade consortium-developed assessments have two different student performance standards: One for the purposes of high school graduation that will be established by the state board of education and one that is intended to demonstrate a student's career and college readiness." [2013 2nd sp.s. c 22 s 1.]

Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 22: "(1) The legislature continues to support end-of-course assessments as a fair and practical way to measure students' knowledge and skills in high school science, but the legislature also recognizes that there are important scientific concepts, principles, and content that are not able to be captured in a single course or a single assessment. The legislature also does not wish to narrow the high school science curriculum to a singular focus on biology.

(2) However, the legislature finds that the financial resources for developing additional end-of-course assessments for high school science are not available in the 2011-2013 biennium. Nevertheless, the legislature intends to revisit this issue in the future and further intends at an appropriate time to direct the superintendent of public instruction to develop one or more end-of-course assessments in additional science subjects." [2011 1st sp.s. c 22 s 1.]

RCW 28A.655.070 State learning standards—Duties of the superintendent of public instruction. (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop state learning standards that identify the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, develop student assessments, and implement the accountability recommendations and requests regarding assistance, rewards, and recognition of the state board of education.

(2) The superintendent of public instruction shall:

(a) Periodically revise the state learning standards, as needed, based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall be considered primary. To the maximum extent possible, the superintendent shall integrate goal four and the knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the state learning standards;

(b) Include a screening for biased content in each development or revision of a state learning standard and ensure that the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion, as those terms are defined in RCW 28A.415.443, are incorporated into each new or revised state learning standard. In meeting the requirements of this subsection (2)(b), the superintendent of public instruction shall consult with the applicable commissions established in Title 43 RCW and other persons and organizations with relevant expertise; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) To assist parents and teachers in their efforts to provide educational support to individual students, the superintendent of public instruction shall provide as much individual student performance information as possible within the constraints of the assessment system's item bank. The superintendent shall also provide to school districts:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(16)(a) The superintendent shall notify the state board of education in writing before initiating the development or revision of the state learning standards under subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The notification must be provided to the state board of education in advance for review at a regularly scheduled or special board meeting and must include the following information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(18) The superintendent shall produce and post on its website a schedule for the revision of state learning standards under subsection (2) of this section by September 1, 2025. In addition to notifying parents, schools, and the public of the revision schedules and timelines, the website posting must be updated as necessary to inform persons of the status of any pending revisions, and of any plans or actions related to developing new state learning standards under subsection (1) of this section. [2024 c 157 s 4; 2019 c 252 s 119; 2018 c 177 s 401; 2015 c 211 s 3; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 22 s 5; 2008 c 163 s 2; 2007 c 354 s 5; 2005 c 497 s 106; 2004 c 19 s 204; 1999 c 388 s 501.]

Intent—2019 c 252: See note following RCW 28A.230.710.

Finding—Intent—2018 c 177: See note following RCW 28A.305.905.

Findings—Intent—2013 2nd sp.s. c 22: See note following RCW 28A.655.068.

Findings—2008 c 163: "The legislature finds that, according to a recent report from a consultant retained by the state board of education, end-of-course assessments have certain advantages over comprehensive assessments such as the current form of the Washington assessment of student learning, and in most other areas end-of-course assessments are comparable to comprehensive assessments in meeting public policy objectives for a statewide assessment system. The legislature further finds that because the state's assessment contract will be renegotiated before the end of 2008, the 2008 legislature has an opportunity to provide policy direction in the design of the state

assessment system and the design of the Washington assessment of student learning." [2008 c 163 s 1.]

Findings—Intent—2007 c 354: "(1) The legislature maintains a strong commitment to high expectations and high academic achievement for all students. The legislature finds that Washington schools and students are making significant progress in improving achievement in reading and writing. Schools are adapting instruction and providing remediation for students who need additional assistance. Reading and writing are being taught across the curriculum. Therefore, the legislature does not intend to make changes to the Washington assessment of student learning or high school graduation requirements in reading and writing.

(2) However, students are having difficulty improving their academic achievement in mathematics and science, particularly as measured by the high school Washington assessment of student learning. The legislature finds that corrections are needed in the state's high school assessment system that will improve alignment between learning standards, instruction, diagnosis, and assessment of students' knowledge and skills in high school mathematics and science. The legislature further finds there is a sense of urgency to make these corrections and intends to revise high school graduation requirements in mathematics and science only for the minimum period for corrections to be fully implemented." [2007 c 354 s 1.]

Intent—Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 497: See notes following RCW 28A.305.011.

Part headings and captions not law—Effective date—2004 c 19: See notes following RCW 28A.230.090.

RCW 28A.655.071 Revised essential academic learning requirements—Legislative review—Implementation. (1) By August 2, 2010, the superintendent of public instruction may revise the *state essential academic learning requirements authorized under RCW 28A.655.070 for mathematics, reading, writing, and communication by provisionally adopting a common set of standards for students in grades kindergarten through twelve. The revised *state essential academic learning requirements may be substantially identical with the standards developed by a multistate consortium in which Washington participated, must be consistent with the requirements of RCW 28A.655.070, and may include additional standards if the additional standards do not exceed fifteen percent of the standards for each content area. However, the superintendent of public instruction shall not take steps to implement the provisionally adopted standards until the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate have an opportunity to review the standards.

(2) By January 1, 2011, the superintendent of public instruction shall submit to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate:

(a) A detailed comparison of the provisionally adopted standards and the *state essential academic learning requirements as of June 10, 2010, including the comparative level of rigor and specificity of the standards and the implications of any identified differences; and

(b) An estimated timeline and costs to the state and to school districts to implement the provisionally adopted standards, including providing necessary training, realignment of curriculum, adjustment of state assessments, and other actions.

(3) The superintendent may implement the revisions to the *essential academic learning requirements under this section after the 2011 legislative session unless otherwise directed by the legislature. [2010 c 235 s 601.]

***Reviser's note:** The term "essential academic learning requirements" in RCW 28A.655.070 was changed to "state learning standards" by 2019 c 252 s 119.

Finding—2010 c 235: See note following RCW 28A.405.245.

RCW 28A.655.075 Essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations for educational technology literacy and technology fluency—Assessments—Reports. (1) Within funds specifically appropriated therefor, by December 1, 2008, the superintendent of public instruction shall develop essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations for educational technology literacy and technology fluency that identify the knowledge and skills that all public school students need to know and be able to do in the areas of technology and technology literacy. The development process shall include a review of current standards that have been developed or are used by other states and national and international technology associations. To the maximum extent possible, the superintendent shall integrate goal four and the knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the technology essential academic learning requirements.

(a) As used in this section, "technology literacy" means the ability to responsibly, creatively, and effectively use appropriate technology to communicate; access, collect, manage, integrate, and evaluate information; solve problems and create solutions; build and share knowledge; and improve and enhance learning in all subject areas and experiences.

(b) Technology fluency builds upon technology literacy and is demonstrated when students: Apply technology to real-world experiences; adapt to changing technologies; modify current and create new technologies; and personalize technology to meet personal needs, interests, and learning styles.

(2)(a) Within funds specifically appropriated therefor, the superintendent shall obtain or develop education technology assessments that may be administered in the elementary, middle, and high school grades to assess the essential academic learning requirements for technology. The assessments shall be designed to be classroom or project-based so that they can be embedded in classroom instruction and be administered and scored by school staff throughout the regular school year using consistent scoring criteria and procedures. By the 2010-11 school year, these assessments shall be made available to school districts for the districts' voluntary use. If a school district uses the assessments created under this section, then the school district shall notify the superintendent of public instruction of the use. The superintendent shall report annually to the legislature on the number of school districts that use the assessments each school year.

(b) Beginning December 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the superintendent of public instruction shall provide a report to the relevant legislative committees regarding the use of the assessments. [2007 c 396 s 16; (2009 c 556 s 15 expired July 1, 2011).]

Expiration date—2009 c 556 ss 11, 13, and 15: See note following RCW 28A.300.525.

Captions not law—2007 c 396: See note following RCW 28A.305.215.

Finding—Intent—2007 c 396: See note following RCW 28A.188.020.

Essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations—Revised standards and curricula for mathematics and science—Duties of the state board of education and the superintendent of public instruction: RCW 28A.305.215.

RCW 28A.655.080 Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills—Implementation and administration—Work group—Reports—Grants—Waivers. (1) To the extent funds are available, beginning in the 2012-13 school year, the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills shall be administered at the beginning of the school year to all students enrolled in state-funded full-day kindergarten programs under RCW 28A.150.315 with the exception of students who have been excused from participation by their parents or guardians.

(2)(a) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the department of children, youth, and families, shall convene a work group to provide:

(i) Input and recommendations with respect to implementation of the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills;

(ii) Recommendations regarding the optimum way to administer the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills to children in half-day kindergarten while ensuring that they receive the maximum instruction as required in *RCW 28A.150.205; and

(iii) Recommendations with respect to achieving the goal of replacing assessments currently required by school districts with the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills.

(b) The work group shall include:

(i) One representative from the office of the superintendent of public instruction;

(ii) One representative from the department of children, youth, and families;

(iii) One representative from the nongovernmental private-public partnership defined in RCW 43.216.010;

(iv) Five representatives, including both teachers and principals, from school districts that participated in the pilot project, with every effort made to make sure that there is representation from across the state;

(v) Two parents who are familiar with and participated in the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills pilot during the 2010-11 school year; and

(vi) A representative from an independent, nonprofit children and family services organization with a main campus in North Bend, Washington.

(c) The work group may solicit input from people who are recent implementers of the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills.

(d) A preliminary report and recommendations shall be submitted to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives by December 1, 2012. A subsequent report and recommendations shall be submitted to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives by December 1, 2013, and annually by December 1st thereafter.

(e) The work group shall terminate upon full statewide implementation of all-day kindergarten.

(3) To the extent funds are available, additional support in the form of implementation grants shall be offered to schools on a schedule to be determined by the office of the superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the department of children, youth, and families.

(4) Until full statewide implementation of all-day kindergarten programs, the superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the secretary of the department of children, youth, and families, may grant annual, renewable waivers from the requirement of subsection (1) of this section to administer the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills. A school district seeking a waiver for one or more of its schools must submit an application to the office of the superintendent of public instruction that includes:

(a) A description of the kindergarten readiness assessment and transition processes that it proposes to administer instead of the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills;

(b) An explanation of why the administration of the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills would be unduly burdensome; and

(c) An explanation of how administration of the alternative kindergarten readiness assessment will support social-emotional, physical, and cognitive growth and development of individual children; support early learning provider and parent involvement; and inform instruction. [2018 c 58 s 1; 2012 c 51 s 2.]

***Reviser's note:** The reference to RCW 28A.150.205, which contains the definition of "instructional hours," appears to be erroneous.

Effective date—2018 c 58: "This act takes effect July 1, 2018." [2018 c 58 s 82.]

RCW 28A.655.090 Statewide student assessment—Reporting requirements. (1) By September 10, 1998, and by September 10th each year thereafter, the superintendent of public instruction shall report to schools, school districts, and the legislature on the results of the statewide student assessment.

(2) The reports shall include the assessment results by school and school district, and include changes over time. For the statewide student assessment, results shall be reported as follows:

(a) The percentage of students meeting the standards;

(b) The percentage of students performing at each level of the assessment;

(c) Disaggregation of results by at least the following subgroups of students: White, Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific Islander/Hawaiian Native, low income, transitional

bilingual, migrant, special education, and, beginning with the 2009-10 school year, students covered by section 504 of the federal rehabilitation act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794); and

(d) A learning improvement index that shows changes in student performance within the different levels of student learning reported on the statewide student assessment.

(3) The reports shall contain data regarding the different characteristics of schools, such as poverty levels, percent of English as a second language students, dropout rates, attendance, percent of students in special education, and student mobility so that districts and schools can learn from the improvement efforts of other schools and districts with similar characteristics.

(4) The reports shall contain student scores on mandated tests by comparable Washington schools of similar characteristics.

(5) The reports shall contain information on public school choice options available to students, including vocational education.

(6) The reports shall be posted on the superintendent of public instruction's internet website.

(7) To protect the privacy of students, the results of schools and districts that test fewer than ten students in a grade level shall not be reported. In addition, in order to ensure that results are reported accurately, the superintendent of public instruction shall maintain the confidentiality of statewide data files until the superintendent determines that the data are complete and accurate.

(8) The superintendent of public instruction shall monitor the percentage and number of special education and limited English-proficient students exempted from taking the assessments by schools and school districts to ensure the exemptions are in compliance with exemption guidelines. [2019 c 252 s 120; 2008 c 165 s 3; 1999 c 388 s 301; 1998 c 319 s 301. Formerly RCW 28A.630.889.]

Intent—2019 c 252: See note following RCW 28A.230.710.

Part headings not law—1998 c 319: See note following RCW 28A.300.320.

RCW 28A.655.095 Students with cognitive disabilities—Alternative assessment system. The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall continue to actively collaborate with teachers and directors of special education programs in the development and implementation of a process to transition from the current portfolio system of assessment of students with significant cognitive challenges to a performance task-based alternative assessment system based on state standards. Before such time as a new assessment becomes available, and within existing resources, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall coordinate efforts to: Align academic goals in a student's individualized education program with the current statewide assessment system by identifying detailed statewide alternate achievement benchmarks for use by teachers in the current portfolio system; develop a transparent and reliable scoring process; efficiently use technology; and develop a sensible approval process to shorten the time involved in developing and collecting current assessment data for students with significant cognitive disabilities. [2011 c 75 s 2.]

Findings—2011 c 75: "The legislature finds that:

(1) One of the difficult issues facing states and school districts throughout the country is the meaningful inclusion of students with significant cognitive challenges in their current state assessment and accountability systems.

(2) Assessment and accountability systems provide valuable information to parents and educators, and all students deserve a system that encourages them to meaningfully access and make progress in the general education curriculum. Nevertheless, assessing the academic knowledge and skills of students with unique and significant cognitive disabilities can be challenging concerning the student's access to and progress in the general education curriculum. Furthermore, the development of meaningful assessment portfolios in the current system can be extremely time-consuming for both teachers and students, provide limited information for parents, and include questionable test and measurement practices." [2011 c 75 s 1.]

RCW 28A.655.100 Performance goals—Reporting requirements. Each school district board of directors shall:

(1)(a) Annually report to parents and to the community in a public meeting and annually report in writing the following information:

(i) District-wide and school-level performance improvement goals;
(ii) Student performance relative to the goals; and
(iii) District-wide and school-level plans to achieve the goals, including curriculum and instruction, parental or guardian involvement, and resources available to parents and guardians to help students meet the state standards;

(b) Report annually in a news release to the local media the district's progress toward meeting the district-wide and school-level goals; and

(c) Include the school-level goals, student performance relative to the goals, and a summary of school-level plans to achieve the goals in each school's annual school performance report under RCW 28A.655.110.

(2) School districts in which ten or fewer students in the district or in a school in the district are eligible to be assessed in a grade level are not required to report numerical improvement goals and performance relative to the goals, but are required to report to parents and the community their plans to improve student achievement. [1999 c 388 s 302.]

RCW 28A.655.110 Annual school performance report—Model report form. (1) Beginning with the 1994-95 school year, to provide the local community and electorate with access to information on the educational programs in the schools in the district, each school shall publish annually a school performance report and deliver the report to each parent with children enrolled in the school and make the report available to the community served by the school. The annual performance report shall be in a form that can be easily understood and be used by parents, guardians, and other members of the community who are not professional educators to make informed educational decisions. As data from the assessments in *RCW 28A.655.060 becomes available, the annual performance report should enable parents,

educators, and school board members to determine whether students in the district's schools are attaining mastery of the student learning goals under RCW 28A.150.210, and other important facts about the schools' performance in assisting students to learn. The annual report shall make comparisons to a school's performance in preceding years, student performance relative to the goals and the percentage of students performing at each level of the assessment, a comparison of student performance at each level of the assessment to the previous year's performance, and information regarding school-level plans to achieve the goals.

(2) The annual performance report shall include, but not be limited to: (a) A brief statement of the mission of the school and the school district; (b) enrollment statistics including student demographics; (c) expenditures per pupil for the school year; (d) a summary of student scores on all mandated tests; (e) a concise annual budget report; (f) student attendance, graduation, and dropout rates; (g) information regarding the use and condition of the school building or buildings; (h) a brief description of the learning improvement plans for the school; (i) a summary of the feedback from parents and community members obtained under RCW 28A.655.115; and (j) an invitation to all parents and citizens to participate in school activities.

(3) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop by June 30, 1994, and update periodically, a model report form, which shall also be adapted for computers, that schools may use to meet the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this section. In order to make school performance reports broadly accessible to the public, the superintendent of public instruction, to the extent feasible, shall make information on each school's report available on or through the superintendent's internet website. [2010 c 235 s 703; 1999 c 388 s 303; 1993 c 336 s 1006. Formerly RCW 28A.320.205.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 28A.655.060 was repealed by 2004 c 19 s 206.

Finding—2010 c 235: See note following RCW 28A.405.245.

Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—1993 c 336: See notes following RCW 28A.150.210.

Findings—1993 c 336: See note following RCW 28A.150.210.

RCW 28A.655.115 Outreach and feedback—Working group—Model feedback tools and strategies. (1) Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, each school shall conduct outreach and seek feedback from a broad and diverse range of parents, other individuals, and organizations in the community regarding their experiences with the school. The school shall summarize the responses in its annual report under RCW 28A.655.110.

(2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall create a working group with representatives of organizations representing parents, teachers, and principals as well as diverse communities. The working group shall also include a representative from the *achievement gap oversight and accountability committee. By September 1, 2010, the working group shall develop model feedback tools and strategies that school districts may use to facilitate the feedback process required in subsection (1) of this section. The model

tools and strategies are intended to provide assistance to school districts. School districts are encouraged to adapt the models or develop unique tools and strategies that best fit the circumstances in their communities. [2010 c 235 s 702.]

***Reviser's note:** The "achievement gap oversight and accountability committee" was renamed the "educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 21 s 33.

Finding—2010 c 235: See note following RCW 28A.405.245.

RCW 28A.655.130 Accountability implementation funds. (1) To the extent funds are appropriated, the office of the superintendent of public instruction annually shall allocate accountability implementation funds to school districts. The purposes of the funds are to: Develop and update student learning improvement plans; implement curriculum materials and instructional strategies; provide staff professional development to implement the selected curricula and instruction; develop and implement assessment strategies and training in assessment scoring; and fund other activities intended to improve student learning for all students, including students with diverse needs. Activities funded by the allocations must be consistent with the school or district improvement plan, designed to improve the ability of teachers and other instructional certificated and classified staff to assist students in meeting the essential academic learning requirements, and designed to achieve state and local accountability goals. Activities funded by the allocations shall be designed to protect the teachers' instructional time with students and minimize the use of substitute teachers.

(2) Schools receiving funds shall develop, update as needed, and keep on file a school student learning improvement plan to achieve the student learning goals and essential academic learning requirements and to implement the assessment system as it is developed. The plan shall delineate how the accountability implementation funds will be used to accomplish the requirements of this section. The plan shall be made available to the public and to others upon request.

(3) The amount of allocations shall be determined in the omnibus appropriations act.

(4) The state schools for the deaf and blind are eligible to receive allocations under this section.

(5) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt timelines and rules as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to administer the program, and require that schools and districts submit reports regarding the use of the funds. [1999 c 388 s 402.]

RCW 28A.655.140 Technical assistance. (1) In order to increase the availability and quality of technical assistance statewide, the superintendent of public instruction, subject to available funding, may employ school improvement coordinators and school improvement specialists to provide assistance to schools and districts. The improvement specialists shall serve on a rotating basis and shall not be permanent employees.

(2) The types of assistance provided by the improvement coordinators and specialists may include, but need not be limited to:

- (a) Assistance to schools to use student performance data and develop improvement plans based on those data;
- (b) Consultation with schools and districts concerning their performance on the Washington assessment of student learning and other assessments;
- (c) Consultation concerning curricula that aligns with the essential academic learning requirements and the Washington assessment of student learning and that meets the needs of diverse learners;
- (d) Assistance in the identification and implementation of research-based instructional practices;
- (e) Staff training that emphasizes effective instructional strategies and classroom-based assessment;
- (f) Assistance in developing and implementing family and community involvement programs; and
- (g) Other assistance to schools and school districts intended to improve student learning. [1999 c 388 s 403.]

RCW 28A.655.150 Consolidation of requirements for categorical grant programs—Use of electronic applications and reporting. The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with school district personnel, shall consolidate and streamline the planning, application, and reporting requirements for major state and federal categorical and grant programs. The superintendent also shall take actions to increase the use of online electronic applications and reporting. [1999 c 388 s 602.]

RCW 28A.655.180 Waivers for educational restructuring programs.

(1) The state board of education may grant waivers to districts from the provisions of statutes or rules relating to: The length of the school year; student-to-teacher ratios; and other administrative rules that in the opinion of the state board of education may need to be waived in order for a district to implement a plan for restructuring its educational program or the educational program of individual schools within the district.

(2) The state board of education may adopt rules establishing the waiver application process under this section. [2018 c 177 s 507; (2018 c 177 s 506 expired June 30, 2019); (2012 c 53 s 9 expired June 30, 2019); (2011 c 260 s 9 expired June 30, 2019); 2009 c 543 s 3; (1997 c 431 s 23 expired June 30, 1999); 1995 c 208 s 1. Formerly RCW 28A.630.945.]

Expiration date—2018 c 177 s 506: "Section 506 of this act expires June 30, 2019." [2018 c 177 s 704.]

Effective dates—2018 c 177 ss 201, 202, 501-504, 507, and 701: See note following RCW 28A.150.222.

Finding—Intent—2018 c 177: See note following RCW 28A.305.905.

Finding—Intent—2009 c 543: "The legislature continues to support school districts seeking innovations to further the educational experiences of students and staff while also realizing increased efficiencies in day-to-day operations. School districts have suggested that efficiencies in heating, lighting, or maintenance expenses could

be possible if districts were given the ability to create a more flexible calendar. Furthermore, the legislature finds that a flexible calendar could be beneficial to student learning by allowing for the use of the unscheduled days for professional development activities, planning, tutoring, special programs, parent conferences, and athletic events. A flexible calendar also has the potential to ease the burden of long commutes on students in rural areas and to lower absenteeism.

School districts in several western states have operated on a four-day school week and report increased efficiencies, family support, and reduced absenteeism, with no negative impact on student learning. Small rural school districts in particular could benefit due to their high per-pupil costs for transportation and utilities. Therefore, the legislature intends to provide increased flexibility to a limited number of school districts to explore the potential value of operating on a flexible calendar, so long as adequate safeguards are put in place to prevent any negative impact on student learning."
[2009 c 543 s 1.]

RCW 28A.655.185 Intent—Apple award program. (1) It is the intent of the legislature, through the creation of the apple award, to honor and reward students in Washington's public elementary schools who have shown significant improvement in their school's results on the statewide student assessment.

(2) The apple award program is created to honor and reward public elementary schools that have the greatest combined average increase in the percentage of students meeting the fourth grade reading, mathematics, and writing standards on the statewide student assessment each school year. Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, the award shall be based on the percentage of students meeting the fourth grade English language arts and mathematics standards. The program shall be administered by the superintendent of public instruction.

(3) Within the amounts appropriated for this purpose, each school that receives an apple award shall be provided with a twenty-five thousand dollar grant to be used for capital construction purposes that have been selected by students in the school and approved by the district's school directors. The funds may be used exclusively for capital construction projects on school property or on other public property in the community, city, or county in which the school is located. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 22 s 9; 2005 c 495 s 1.]

Findings—Intent—2013 2nd sp.s. c 22: See note following RCW 28A.655.068.

RCW 28A.655.200 Norm-referenced assessments—Diagnostic assessments. (1) The legislature intends to permit school districts to offer norm-referenced assessments, make diagnostic tools available to school districts, and provide funding for diagnostic assessments to enhance student learning at all grade levels and provide early intervention before the high school statewide student assessment.

(2) In addition to the diagnostic assessments provided under this section, school districts may, at their own expense, administer norm-referenced assessments to students.

(3) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall

post on its website for voluntary use by school districts, a guide of diagnostic assessments. The assessments in the guide, to the extent possible, shall include the characteristics listed in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this purpose, beginning September 1, 2007, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall make diagnostic assessments in reading, writing, mathematics, and science in elementary, middle, and high school grades available to school districts. Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall also provide funding to school districts for administration of diagnostic assessments to help improve student learning, identify academic weaknesses, enhance student planning and guidance, and develop targeted instructional strategies to assist students before the high school statewide student assessment. To the greatest extent possible, the assessments shall be:

- (a) Aligned to the state's grade level expectations;
- (b) Individualized to each student's performance level;
- (c) Administered efficiently to provide results either

immediately or within two weeks;

(d) Capable of measuring individual student growth over time and allowing student progress to be compared to other students across the country;

- (e) Readily available to parents; and
- (f) Cost-effective.

(5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall offer training at statewide and regional staff development activities in:

- (a) The interpretation of diagnostic assessments; and
- (b) Application of instructional strategies that will increase

student learning based on diagnostic assessment data. [2019 c 252 s 121; 2009 c 539 s 1; 2007 c 354 s 8; 2006 c 117 s 4; 2005 c 217 s 2.]

Intent—2019 c 252: See note following RCW 28A.230.710.

Effective date—2009 c 539: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2009." [2009 c 539 s 7.]

Findings—Intent—2007 c 354: See note following RCW 28A.655.070.

Intent—2006 c 117: See note following RCW 28A.600.045.

RCW 28A.655.210 K-12 education data improvement system. (1) It is the legislature's intent to establish a comprehensive K-12 education data improvement system for financial, student, and educator data. The objective of the system is to monitor student progress, have information on the quality of the educator workforce, monitor and analyze the costs of programs, provide for financial integrity and accountability, and have the capability to link across these various data components by student, by class, by teacher, by school, by district, and statewide. Education data systems must be flexible and able to adapt to evolving needs for information, but there must be an objective and orderly data governance process for determining when

changes are needed and how to implement them. It is the further intent of the legislature to provide independent review and evaluation of a comprehensive K-12 education data improvement system by assigning the review and monitoring responsibilities to the education data center and the legislative evaluation and accountability program committee.

(2) It is the intent that the data system specifically service reporting requirements for teachers, parents, superintendents, school boards, the legislature, the office of the superintendent of public instruction, and the public.

(3) It is the legislature's intent that the K-12 education data improvement system used by school districts and the state include but not be limited to the following information and functionality:

(a) Comprehensive educator information, including grade level and courses taught, building or location, program, job assignment, years of experience, the institution of higher education from which the educator obtained his or her degree, compensation, class size, mobility of class population, socioeconomic data of class, number of languages and which languages are spoken by students, general resources available for curriculum and other classroom needs, and number and type of instructional support staff in the building;

(b) The capacity to link educator assignment information with educator certification information such as certification number, type of certification, route to certification, certification program, and certification assessment or evaluation scores;

(c) Common coding of secondary courses and major areas of study at the elementary level or standard coding of course content;

(d) Robust student information, including but not limited to student characteristics, course and program enrollment, performance on statewide and district summative and formative assessments to the extent district assessments are used, and performance on college readiness tests;

(e) A subset of student information elements to serve as a dropout early warning system;

(f) The capacity to link educator information with student information;

(g) A common, standardized structure for reporting the costs of programs at the school and district level with a focus on the cost of services delivered to students;

(h) Separate accounting of state, federal, and local revenues and costs;

(i) Information linking state funding formulas to school district budgeting and accounting, including procedures:

(i) To support the accuracy and auditing of financial data; and

(ii) Using the prototypical school model for school district financial accounting reporting;

(j) The capacity to link program cost information with student performance information to gauge the cost-effectiveness of programs;

(k) Information that is centrally accessible and updated regularly; and

(l) An anonymous, nonidentifiable replicated copy of data that is updated at least quarterly, and made available to the public by the state.

(4) It is the legislature's goal that all school districts have the capability to collect state-identified common data and export it in a standard format to support a statewide K-12 education data improvement system under this section.

(5) It is the legislature's intent that the K-12 education data improvement system be developed to provide the capability to make reports as required under RCW 28A.300.507 available.

(6) It is the legislature's intent that school districts collect and report new data elements to satisfy the requirements of RCW 43.41.400, this section, and RCW 28A.300.507, only to the extent funds are available for this purpose. [2009 c 548 s 202.]

Intent—2009 c 548: See RCW 28A.150.1981.

Finding—2009 c 548: See note following RCW 28A.410.270.

Intent—Finding—2009 c 548: See note following RCW 28A.305.130.

RCW 28A.655.220 Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills—Fairness and bias review. Before implementing the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills as provided under RCW 28A.150.315, the superintendent of public instruction and the department of children, youth, and families must assure that a fairness and bias review of the assessment process has been conducted, including providing an opportunity for input from the educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee under RCW 28A.300.136 and from an additional diverse group of community representatives, parents, and educators to be convened by the superintendent and the secretary of the department. [2018 c 58 s 28; 2011 c 340 s 2.]

Effective date—2018 c 58: See note following RCW 28A.655.080.

RCW 28A.655.230 Reading skills—Meeting for grade placement and strategies for student improvement—Exemptions. (1) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section and RCW 28A.655.235 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Basic" means a score on the statewide student assessment at a level two in a four-level scoring system.

(b) "Below basic" means a score on the statewide student assessment at a level one in a four-level scoring system.

(c) "Not meet the state standard" means a score on the statewide student assessment at either a level one or a level two in a four-level scoring system.

(2) Prior to the return of the results of the statewide student assessment in English language arts, elementary schools shall require meetings between teachers and parents of students in third grade who are reading below grade-level or who, based on formative or diagnostic assessment, and other indicators, are likely to score in the below basic level on the third grade statewide student assessment in English language arts. At the meeting, the teacher shall inform the parents or guardians of the requirements of this section and the intensive reading improvement strategies that will be available to students before fourth grade. The teacher also shall inform the parents and guardians of the school district's grade placement policy for the following year. Schools that have regularly scheduled parent teacher conferences may use those meetings to comply with this section.

(3) For students to be placed in fourth grade, the strategies provided by the school district must include an intensive improvement strategy provided, supported, or contracted by the school district that includes a summer program or other options developed to meet the needs of students to prepare for fourth grade.

(4) If a student in third grade scores below grade level on the third grade statewide student assessment in English language arts, and there was no meeting under subsection (2) of this section, the principal or his or her designee shall notify the student's parents or guardians of the following:

- (a) The below basic score;
- (b) An explanation of the requirements of this section;
- (c) The intensive improvement strategy options that are available;
- (d) The school district's grade placement policy;
- (e) Contact information for a school district employee who can respond to questions and provide additional information; and

(f) A reasonable deadline for obtaining the parent's consent regarding the student's intensive improvement strategies that will be implemented and the student's grade placement.

(5) The parent's or guardian's consent must be obtained regarding the appropriate grade placement and the intensive improvement strategy to be implemented. The school district must implement the strategy selected in consultation with the student's parents or guardians. If the school district does not receive a response from a parent by the deadline or a reasonable time thereafter, the principal or his or her designee shall make a decision on the student's grade placement for the following year and the intensive improvement strategies that will be implemented during the following school year.

(6) If the school principal and parent cannot agree on the appropriate grade placement and improvement strategies from the list of available options, the parent's request will be honored.

(7) If a student does not have a score in English language arts on the third grade statewide student assessment but the district determines, or is able to anticipate from, using district or classroom-based formative or diagnostic assessments or another standardized assessment, that the student's performance is equivalent to below basic in English language arts, the policy in subsections (2) through (6) of this section applies.

(8) Students participating in the transitional bilingual instruction program are exempt from the policy in subsections (2) through (6) of this section, unless the student has participated in the transitional bilingual instruction program for three school years and receives a score of below basic on the third grade statewide student assessment in English language arts.

(9) Students with disabilities whose individualized education program includes specially designed instruction in reading or English language arts are exempt from subsections (2) through (8) of this section. Communication and consultation with parents or guardians of such students shall occur through the individualized education program process required under chapter 28A.155 RCW and associated administrative rules. [2015 c 125 s 1; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 18 s 105.]

Effective date—2015 c 125: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or

support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 25, 2015]." [2015 c 125 s 2.]

Application—Enforcement of laws protecting health and safety—
2013 2nd sp.s. c 18: See note following RCW 28A.600.022.

RCW 28A.655.235 Reading skills—Intensive reading and literacy improvement strategy—Calculation of tested students at or below basic on third grade student assessment—State menu of best practices.

(1)(a) Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, except as otherwise provided in this subsection (1), for any student who received a score of basic or below basic on the third grade statewide student assessment in English language arts in the previous school year, the school district must implement an intensive reading and literacy improvement strategy from a state menu of best practices established in accordance with subsection (3) of this section or an alternative strategy in accordance with subsection (4) of this section.

(b) Reading and literacy improvement strategies for students with disabilities whose individualized education program includes specially designed instruction in reading or English language arts shall be as provided in the individualized education program.

(2)(a) Also beginning in the 2015-16 school year, in any school where more than forty percent of the tested students received a score of basic or below basic on the third grade statewide student assessment in English language arts in the previous school year, as calculated under this subsection (2), the school district must implement an intensive reading and literacy improvement strategy from a state menu of best practices established in accordance with subsection (3) of this section or an alternative strategy in accordance with subsection (4) of this section for all students in grades kindergarten through four at the school.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (2), the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall exclude the following from the calculation of a school's percentage of tested students receiving a score of basic or below basic on the third grade statewide student assessment:

(i) Students enrolled in the transitional bilingual instruction program unless the student has participated in the transitional bilingual instruction program for three school years;

(ii) Students with disabilities whose individualized education program specifies a different standard to measure reading performance than is required for the statewide student assessment; and

(iii) Schools with fewer than ten students in third grade.

(3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall convene a panel of experts, including the Washington state institute for public policy, to develop a state menu of best practices and strategies for intensive reading and literacy improvement designed to assist struggling students in reaching grade level in reading by the end of fourth grade. The state menu must also include best practices and strategies to improve the reading and literacy of students who are English language learners and for system improvements that schools and school districts can implement to improve reading instruction for all students. The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall publish the state menu by July 1, 2014, and update the state menu by each July 1st thereafter.

(4) School districts may use an alternative practice or strategy that is not on a state menu developed under subsection (3) of this section for two school years initially. If the district is able to demonstrate improved outcomes for participating students over the previous two school years at a level commensurate with the best practices and strategies on the state menu, the office of the superintendent of public instruction must approve use of the alternative practice or strategy by the district for one additional school year. Subsequent annual approval by the superintendent of public instruction to use the alternative practice or strategy is dependent on the district continuing to demonstrate an increase in improved outcomes for participating students. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 18 s 106.]

Application—Enforcement of laws protecting health and safety—
2013 2nd sp.s. c 18: See note following RCW 28A.600.022.

RCW 28A.655.280 Applicability of certificates of individual achievement and assessments. RCW *28A.155.045, **28A.655.061, and **28A.655.065, as they existed on January 1, 2019, apply to students in the graduating class of 2018 and prior graduating classes. [2019 c 252 s 401.]

Reviser's note: *(1) RCW 28A.155.045 expired August 31, 2024.
**(2) RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.655.065 expired August 31, 2022.

Intent—2019 c 252: See note following RCW 28A.230.710.

RCW 28A.655.300 Global citizens in a global society. By September 1, 2021, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall identify existing state learning standards that address the knowledge and skills that all public school students need to be global citizens in a global society with an appreciation for the contributions of diverse cultures. These state learning standards must be periodically updated to incorporate best practices in ethnic studies. [2020 c 59 s 1; 2019 c 279 s 2.]

Intent—2019 c 279: "The legislature stated in RCW 28A.150.210 that a "basic education is an evolving program of instruction that is intended to provide students with the opportunity to become responsible and respectful global citizens." In order to prepare students to be global citizens, the legislature intends to require the office of the superintendent of public instruction to develop, and periodically update, essential academic learning requirements and grade-level expectations that identify the knowledge and skills that all public school students need to be global citizens in a global society with an appreciation for the contributions of diverse cultures. The office of the superintendent of public instruction must also identify and make available ethnic studies materials and resources for use in grades seven through twelve. The legislature also intends to encourage public schools with students in grades seven through twelve to offer an ethnic studies course that incorporates the materials and resources." [2019 c 279 s 1.]

Intent—2019 c 279: See note following RCW 28A.300.112.