

1983 Senate Bill 600

Date of enactment: May 8, 1984
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1983 Wisconsin Act 411
(Vetoed in Part)

AN ACT to create ~~118.30 (3m) and~~ 118.33 of the statutes, relating to establishing high school graduation standards, granting rule-making authority and making an appropriation. **Vetoed in Part**

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. Statewide high school graduation standards and minimum credit requirements are intended to provide all children an equal opportunity for a basic education. It is a responsibility of both the state and the school board to provide all pupils with the instructional assistance necessary to meet the standards and to ensure that the standards are not implemented so as to hinder the successful completion of high school.

~~SECTION 1m. 118.30 (3m) of the statutes is created to read:
118.30 (3m) If the school board administers the minimum competency tests under this section, the diploma which the school board issues to a pupil graduating from high school shall indicate in a prominent place on its face whether or not the pupil has passed the tests in each of the basic skill areas. A person who graduates from high school without passing the tests may repeat them as often as necessary. If the person passes the tests, the school board shall alter his or her diploma to indicate that the person passed the tests.~~ **Vetoed in Part**

SECTION 2. 118.33 of the statutes is created to read:

118.33 High school graduation standards. (1) (a) Beginning September 1, 1988, a school board may not grant a high school diploma to any pupil unless the pupil has earned, in the high school grades, at least 4 credits of English including writing composition, 3 credits of social studies including state and local government, 2 credits of mathematics, 2 credits of science, 0.5 credit of computer science, 1.5 credits of physical education and 0.5 credit of health education. The state superintendent shall encourage school boards to require an additional 8.5 credits selected from any combination of vocational education, foreign languages, fine arts and other courses.

(b) Beginning September 1, 1988, a school board may not grant a high school diploma to any pupil unless, during the high school grades, the pupil has been enrolled in a class or has participated in an activity approved by the school board during each class period of each school day.

(2) The state superintendent shall:

(c) Establish procedures permitting a school board to waive the credit requirements under sub. (1) for a pupil who demonstrates, through successful completion of a competency test, mastery of required courses. **Vetoed in Part**

(d) Establish exceptions to the requirements under sub. (1) for high schools which operate a 3-year, rather than a 4-year, system of high school grades.

Vetoed in Part ~~(e) Recognize and approve any school board's high school graduation standards policy that is substantially equivalent to the requirements under sub. (1).~~

Vetoed in Part ~~(f) Recognize a school board's action to waive the credit requirements under sub. (1) or to develop alternative instructional programming based on an individual pupil's needs or abilities as approved by the school board, the pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian.~~

Vetoed in Part ~~(g) Provide for an exception from the requirement of 1.5 credits of physical education for pupils who participate in interscholastic or intramural athletics or other planned programs of physical exercise, as determined by the school board.~~

Vetoed in Part ~~(2m) Each school board operating high school grades may adopt policies granting exemptions from the requirements under sub. (1) (a) to accommodate pupils with exceptional educational interests, needs or requirements, not limited to children with exceptional educational needs, as defined under s. 115.76 (3), if such policies are first approved by the state superintendent and to grant exemptions from the requirement of 1.5 credits~~

Vetoed in Part ~~of physical education for pupils who participate in interscholastic or intramural athletics or other planned programs of physical exercise, as determined by the school board.~~

(3) By July 1, 1988, each school board operating high school grades shall submit to the state superintendent a report describing the school board's policies and guidelines on high school graduation standards, including a list of courses required under sub. (1) (a) and the number of hours in each school term required to earn one credit under sub. (1) (a), and thereafter shall notify the state superintendent whenever changes are made in such policies or guidelines. The department shall make reasonable efforts to combine the reports required under this subsection with other required school board reports.

(4) (a) The state superintendent shall establish procedures for school boards to certify to the state superintendent whether they are in compliance with the requirements under sub. (1) and the rules promulgated under sub. (2).

(b) The state superintendent may periodically review school district high school graduation standards and shall notify any school board not in compliance with the requirements under sub. (1) or the rules promulgated under sub. (2), identifying the changes necessary.

(5) The department shall include in its biennial report under s. 15.04 (1) (d) information on the status of statewide high school graduation standards.

SECTION 5. Appropriation changes; public instruction. (1) **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION STANDARDS.** The appropriation to the department of public instruction under section 20.255 (1) (a) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 1983, is increased by \$57,100 for fiscal year 1984-85 to fund 2.0 GPR positions to implement and administer the high school graduation standards under section 118.33 of the statutes, as created by this act.