

HB

146

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Mary Pagenkopf

Senate Rules Committee 5/4/97 11:34 am

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STATE CAPITOL, JUNEAU 99801
(907) 465-3759

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CS HB 146 (FIN)

"An Act relating to competency testing requirements for secondary students; and providing for an effective date."

Many of our high school graduates are finishing school and receiving high school diplomas without the skills necessary to survive in the world. This must not continue.

Beyond the present requirements for graduation, under the provisions of CS HB146 (FIN) a student is required to pass a competency examination in the areas of reading, English and mathematics before receiving a high school diploma. The test would be selected and implemented by the Alaska Department of Education.

The department would phase in the test beginning in the ninth grade giving students an opportunity to polish their skills before graduation. Pupils who failed this examination and were no longer in attendance would get a certificate of attendance indicating the number of years of attendance. Such pupils would have the opportunity to be re-examined, but would have to take such re-examinations within three years after leaving high school.

It is time for Alaska to take steps to ensure that their high school graduates have the knowledge they need to succeed in the world.

Possible Implementation Table for Exit Examination

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2000-02	2000-03
<p>Draft test in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, pilot subsets of items, pilot full test</p> <p>Mandate standards in Reading, Writing and Mathematics Disseminate performance standards in Reading, Writing and Mathematics related to the test</p>	<p>Field test</p> <p>Establish state norms Establish cut-off scores</p> <p>Districts develop remedial system</p> <p>Teacher training</p>	<p>Test 9th graders</p>	<p>Test 9th and 10th graders</p>	<p>Test 9th, 10th and 11th graders</p>	<p>Test 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders</p>
<p>***DEPARTMENT DOES NOT RECOMMEND A STATE-LEVEL TEST IN SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES DUE TO THE LACK OF CONSENSUS ON STANDARDS AND CONCERNS BEING CURRENTLY RAISED OVER TECHNICAL QUALITY OF TESTS IN THIS AREA</p>		<p>Draft test in Science and Social Studies</p> <p>See above line for tasks related to these tests</p>	<p>See above line for tasks related to these tests</p>	<p>Test 9th graders</p>	<p>Test 9th and 10th graders</p> <p>[Test moves out to test 12th graders by year 2004-05]</p>

To shorten the timeline to implement the exit examination in the year 2001, it would be imperative that there be a fail-safe mechanism to delay the process if technical quality (necessary to withstand legal challenge) cannot be achieved.