

CHAPTER 101

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SENATE BILL 96-125

BY SENATORS Meiklejohn, Norton, Tanner, Matsunaka, Pascoe, and Perlmutter;
also REPRESENTATIVES Allen, Keller, and Mace.

AN ACT

**CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSESSMENTS IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING
STANDARDS-BASED EDUCATION.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. 22-53-406 (2) (b), Colorado Revised Statutes, 1995 Repl. Vol., is amended to read:

22-53-406. Adoption of state model content standards, state assessments, and timelines - resource bank. (2) On or before September 15, 1995, the board, after careful consideration of the recommendations of the council and in consultation with the commission and the joint budget committee, shall adopt timelines:

(b) Specifying the time by which districts shall begin to assess students. The timeline shall require student assessments to be administered as follows: In the first year, assessments shall be administered to students in the fourth grade level; in the second year, assessments shall be administered to students in the fourth and eighth grade levels; in the third year and in each year thereafter, assessments shall be administered to students in the fourth, eighth, and ~~tenth~~ ELEVENTH grade levels. ~~except that, if Senate Bill 95-210 becomes law, in the third year and in each year thereafter, assessments shall be administered to students in the fourth, eighth, and eleventh grade levels.~~

SECTION 2. 22-53-409 (1) (a), (3), and (4) (b), Colorado Revised Statutes, 1995 Repl. Vol., are amended to read:

22-53-409. Assessments. (1) (a) ~~Effective~~ BEGINNING September 1, 1996, the department shall implement a Colorado student assessment program under which it

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

shall administer statewide assessments, adopted by the board pursuant to section 22-53-406, in the first priority areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and geography on a stratified, random sampling basis to provide accurate and detailed information to the people of Colorado on student academic achievement and to corroborate the quality of the results provided by district assessments. AT A MINIMUM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BASE THE SAMPLING STRATA ON DISTRICT SIZE. Following adoption of state model content standards in the second priority areas of art, music, physical education, foreign languages, economics, and civics, such areas shall be included in the Colorado student assessment program. ~~Such statewide assessments shall be administered in grades four, eight, and eleven.~~ The timetable for administering such assessments shall be established by the board. ~~in accordance with the provisions of section 22-53-406 (2).~~ IN THE FIRST YEAR, STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE ADMINISTERED IN GRADE FOUR. IN THE SECOND YEAR, STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE ADMINISTERED IN GRADES FOUR AND EIGHT. IN THE THIRD YEAR AND IN EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE ADMINISTERED IN GRADES FOUR, EIGHT, AND ELEVEN. The initial statewide assessment AT EACH GRADE LEVEL shall be considered a baseline assessment.

(3) In accordance with timelines adopted by the board pursuant to section 22-53-406 (2) but BEGINNING not later than January 1, 1998, each district shall administer assessments adopted pursuant to the district plan required under section 22-53-407 (2) in the first priority areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and geography to students at the fourth, eighth, and eleventh grade levels. Following adoption of content standards in the second priority areas of art, music, physical education, foreign languages, economics, and civics, such areas shall be included in the district assessments at the fourth, eighth, and eleventh grade levels. Results of such assessments shall be reported to the department pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of this section. Nothing in this subsection (3) shall prevent districts from administering assessments at levels other than the fourth, eighth, and eleventh grade levels.

(4) (b) In accordance with timelines adopted by the board pursuant to section 22-53-406 (2) but BEGINNING not later than January 1, 1999, the annual report prepared by the department shall also contain assessment results reported by each district that specify the percentage of students achieving each of the performance levels specified by the district in the district plan adopted pursuant to section 22-53-407 (2) on each of the district content standards as measured by assessments adopted by the district. Such results shall be reported for the district as a whole as well as by gender, race, separate disabling condition, and ethnicity of students in accordance with a standard reporting format established by the board. In addition, at the fourth grade, eighth grade, and eleventh grade levels, each district shall submit a comparison of the district assessment results and the state assessment results in a standard reporting format established by the board if students in such district participated in the Colorado student assessment program for that year. In addition, such comparison shall include information establishing the validity and reliability of the district assessments and their internal comparability as well as their comparability to the state assessments.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: April 17, 1996