

STATE OF NEW YORK

S. 3912--A

A. 3702--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

SENATE - ASSEMBLY

January 30, 2017

IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sens. LAVALLE, GALLIVAN, MARCHIONE, SEWARD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. NOLAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to assess, bi-sect and critique through truth in testing

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new article 7-B to
2 read as follows:

ARTICLE 7-B

TRUTH IN TESTING FOR THE COMMON CORE

Section 349-a. Definitions.

349-b. Disclosure.

349-c. Reporting.

349-d. Appeals process.

349-e. Students with disabilities.

349-f. English language learners.

349-g. Extenuating circumstances.

349-h. Independent audit.

349-i. State-wide survey.

14 § 349-a. Definitions. As used in this article: 1. "Test" or "common
15 core state test" means any state created, developed or administered test

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 given in New York state to students in English language arts and math-
2 ematics that test students' knowledge and skills relating to common core
3 standards.

4 2. "Common core" means the New York state P-12 common core learning
5 standards (CCLS) for English language arts and mathematics on which New
6 York state common core tests will be based.

7 3. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of education of the state of
8 New York.

9 4. "Test subject" means any individual to whom a test is administered.

10 5. "Test agency" means organization, association, corporation, part-
11 nership or individual that develops, sponsors or administers a test
12 provided however that the department shall not be included within the
13 definition of a test agency for purposes of this article.

14 6. "Test year" means the twelve-month period commencing September
15 first during which the test agency administers a particular test.

16 7. "Child with a disability" or a "student with a disability" shall be
17 defined in section forty-four hundred one of this chapter.

18 8. "English language learner" means a test subject whose native
19 language is not English.

20 9. "Anchor items" or "linking items" means items based on the same
21 material in different forms on a test or multiple tests given in the
22 same year to different grade levels or in different years to the same
23 grade level that are scaled in such a way to ensure that a given score
24 represents the same level of performance, regardless of the test form or
25 year, that are used to link different forms of a test and equate them;
26 and to ensure that such items represent a stable level of difficulty
27 over time.

28 10. "Field test items" means un-scored items that are used to gather
29 data for use on future scored tests.

30 § 349-b. Disclosure. 1. Thirty days after the administration of any
31 common core state test in English language arts and mathematics given to
32 test subjects, fifty percent of the test items, after excluding anchor
33 items or linking items, and field test items shall be released to the
34 public.

35 2. After the second year of administration of a common core state
36 test, full disclosure of all test items that are the basis for test
37 subjects' scores, shall be released to the public. Posting of test items
38 and correct answers on the department's website shall constitute full
39 disclosure required by this section.

40 § 349-c. Reporting. The commissioner, beginning July first, two thou-
41 sand twenty and annually thereafter, shall report to the governor, the
42 speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the
43 chair of the assembly higher education committee and the chair of the
44 senate higher education committee on:

45 1. the effectiveness of common core state tests in enhancing student
46 learning and performance;

47 2. the fairness and appropriateness of test items for each grade
48 level, including the percentage of test items found to be above grade
49 level;

50 3. the correlation between test scores and grade point averages of
51 test subjects taking common core state tests;

52 4. a statistical analysis of student performance based on socioeconom-
53 ic, gender, race and ethnicity, and regional factors;

54 5. the effectiveness of the test agency as the test development
55 vendor; and

6. factors to be considered in determining whether to continue with the current test agency, or other vendor as a test agency, or utilize partnership for assessment of readiness for college and careers (PARCC) tests in two thousand twenty-one.

§ 349-d. Appeals process. The commissioner shall develop guidelines and procedures for parental appeals of test subjects' scores based on clear proof that such test subjects' scores are not reflective of such test subjects' abilities. Such proof may include but not be limited to grades received on classroom work during the test year or scores received on past common core state tests given to the test subject in previous years.

§ 349-e. Students with disabilities. Students with disabilities shall be provided with the testing accommodations specified in their individual education programs (IEPs) or their section five hundred four accommodation plans (504 Plans).

§ 349-f. English language learners. The commissioner shall develop testing accommodation guidelines for English language learners that may include time extensions, separate test locations, translated editions, bilingual dictionaries and glossaries, oral translations for lower-incidence languages and written responses in native languages.

§ 349-g. Extenuating circumstances. The commissioner shall develop a procedure to allow a test subject to receive a one-time waiver from taking a common core state test based on extenuating circumstances or good cause shown pursuant to the commissioner's regulations.

§ 349-h. Independent audit. Not later than May first, two thousand twenty the commissioner shall undertake to have a comprehensive independent audit performed by an independent contractor, not affiliated with a test agency. Such contractor shall have a background and expertise in educational testing. The audit shall review and evaluate the common core testing program in the state. The scope of the audit shall include but not be limited to test preparation; whether tests were fair, unbiased, properly pre-tested and grade appropriate, including the percentage of test items found to be above grade level; whether the tests were properly administered and scored; and, how the department dealt with teacher, student and parent concerns, complaints and appeals. Such audit shall be completed by October fifteenth, two thousand twenty and a copy shall be transmitted to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly and the chairs of the higher education committees in each house.

§ 349-i. State-wide survey. 1. The commissioner shall conduct a state-wide survey of school administrators, teachers and the deans of teacher education at New York state colleges and universities relating to the amount of time spent on common core state test preparation and the impact of such preparation on the quality of instruction. Respondents to such survey may choose to remain anonymous. The survey shall include, but not be limited to questions related to student and teacher morale, test preparation time and the impact on curriculum, the amount of time teachers spend aligning curriculum to common core state tests, the overall impact testing has on the classroom environment, the effects that the common core testing program in New York state has on the ability of teacher education programs to place student teachers in surrounding school districts, and any other relevant questions regarding the impact of common core state exams, including the percentage of test items found to be above grade level.

2. This survey shall result in a report by the department that compiles the data received from the survey and that details the results

1 and provides conclusions. Such report shall be submitted to the gover-
2 nor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate,
3 the chair of the assembly higher education committee and the chair of
4 the senate higher education committee by December thirty-first, two
5 thousand nineteen.

6 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately, provided that any rules
7 or regulations necessary for the implementation of this act shall be
8 promulgated and take effect 180 days after its enactment.