

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act relating to the adoption of state academic content standards and student
2 assessments for schools.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. State academic content standards - Development.** The superintendent
5 of public instruction shall develop and distribute to each school district and nonpublic school
6 state academic content standards for all core subject areas applicable to grades four, eight, and
7 twelve.

8 **SECTION 2. State academic content standards - Alternate academic content**
9 **standards - Adoption.**

- 10 1. Before the beginning of the 2002-03 school year, each school district and each
11 nonpublic school seeking accreditation, as part of the accreditation process, shall:
- 12 a. Adopt the state academic content standards applicable to grades four, eight,
13 and twelve in the areas of mathematics, English language arts, science, and
14 social studies; or
- 15 b. Adopt or develop alternate academic content standards applicable to grades
16 four, eight, and twelve in the areas of mathematics, English language arts,
17 science, and social studies, provided the alternate academic content
18 standards are determined by the superintendent of public instruction to be
19 equal to or more rigorous than the state standards.
- 20 2. Before the beginning of the 2003-04 school year, each school district and each
21 nonpublic school seeking accreditation, as part of the accreditation process, shall:
- 22 a. Adopt the state academic content standards applicable to grades four, eight,
23 and twelve in the areas of health, the arts, physical education, world
24 languages, and technology; or

- b. Adopt or develop alternate academic content standards applicable to grades four, eight, and twelve in the areas of health, the arts, physical education, world languages, and technology, provided the alternate academic content standards are determined by the superintendent of public instruction to be equal to or more rigorous than the state standards.

SECTION 3. State academic content standards - Alternate academic content standards - Local curriculum - Accreditation.

1. Beginning with the 2002-03 school year, the superintendent of public instruction shall require that each school district and nonpublic school seeking accreditation, as part of the accreditation process, shall adopt or develop curricula for grades four, eight, and twelve which are aligned to the academic content standards in the areas of mathematics and English language arts.
2. Beginning with the 2003-04 school year, the superintendent of public instruction shall require that each school district and nonpublic school seeking accreditation, as part of the accreditation process, shall adopt or develop curricula for grades four, eight, and twelve which are aligned to the academic content standards in the areas of science and social studies.
3. Beginning with the 2004-05 school year, the superintendent of public instruction shall require that each school district and nonpublic school seeking accreditation, as part of the accreditation process, shall adopt or develop curricula for grades four, eight, and twelve which are aligned to the academic content standards in the areas of health, physical education, world languages, and technology.

SECTION 4. State student assessments - Development. Before the beginning of the 2002-03 school year, the superintendent of public instruction shall develop and make available voluntary student assessments that are:

1. Valid and reliable measures of student performance in terms of applicable state academic content standards;
2. Applicable to grades four, eight, and twelve in the areas of mathematics and English language arts; and

3. Designed to measure student knowledge and assist in determining whether schools are meeting the academic expectations set forth in the school's continuous improvement plan.

SECTION 5. State student assessments - Alternate student assessments -

Accreditation. Beginning with the 2002-03 school year, the superintendent of public instruction shall require that each school district and nonpublic school seeking accreditation, as part of the accreditation process, shall adopt or develop an assessment plan to show evidence of student performance against the state academic content standards or against the alternate academic content standards adopted by the district or nonpublic school. A school district or nonpublic school seeking accreditation may either use the student assessments developed by the superintendent of public instruction or adopt or develop alternate student assessments.

SECTION 6. Student assessments - Publication of results.

1. The superintendent of public instruction shall collect and disaggregate reports on student performance evidenced by the state student assessments and any alternate student assessments adopted or developed for use by a school district or a nonpublic school.
2. Each school district or nonpublic school seeking accreditation shall publish the results of its student assessments in a manner that references reliable measures of student performance in terms of state content standards or alternate content standards.