



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 721**

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7011

*House of Representatives, April 16, 2025*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. LEEPER of the 132nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT STATE-WIDE ASSESSMENTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-14n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "mastery examination" means (1) (A) for  
4 the school year commencing July 1, 2025, for students enrolled in grades  
5 three to eight, inclusive, and (B) for the school year commencing July 1,  
6 2026, and each school year thereafter, for students enrolled in grades  
7 four, six and eight, an examination or examinations, approved by the  
8 State Board of Education, that measures essential and grade-appropriate  
9 skills in reading, writing or mathematics, (2) for students enrolled in  
10 grades five, eight and eleven, an examination, approved by the State  
11 Board of Education, that measures essential and grade-appropriate  
12 skills in science, and (3) for students enrolled in grade eleven, a  
13 nationally recognized college readiness assessment, approved by the  
14 State Board of Education, that measures essential and grade-appropriate  
15 skills in reading, writing and mathematics.

16 (b) (1) (A) For the school [year] years commencing July 1, 2015, [and  
17 each school year thereafter] to July 1, 2025, inclusive, each student  
18 enrolled in grades three to eight, inclusive, and grade eleven in any  
19 public school shall, annually, take a mastery examination in reading,  
20 writing and mathematics during the regular school day.

21 (B) For the school year commencing July 1, 2026, and each school year  
22 thereafter, each student enrolled in grades four, six, eight and eleven in  
23 any public school shall, annually, take a mastery examination in  
24 reading, writing and mathematics during the regular school day.

25 (2) (A) For the school years commencing July 1, 2013, to July 1, 2017,  
26 inclusive, each student enrolled in grades five, eight and ten in any  
27 public school shall, annually, in March or April, take a state-wide  
28 mastery examination in science during the regular school day.

29 [(3)] (B) For the school year commencing July 1, 2018, and each school  
30 year thereafter, each student enrolled in grades five, eight and eleven in  
31 any public school shall annually take a state-wide mastery examination  
32 in science during the regular school day.

33 (c) (1) Mastery examinations, as defined in subdivision (1) of  
34 subsection (a) of this section, given to students [enrolled in grades three  
35 to eight, inclusive,] pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this  
36 section, shall be provided by and administered under the supervision of  
37 the State Board of Education.

38 (2) Mastery examinations, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection  
39 (a) of this section, given to students [enrolled in grades five, eight and  
40 ten or eleven, pursuant to subdivisions (2) and (3)] pursuant to  
41 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, shall be provided by and  
42 administered under the supervision of the State Board of Education.

43 (3) Mastery examinations, as defined in subdivision (3) of subsection  
44 (a) of this section, given to students enrolled in grade eleven, pursuant  
45 to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, shall be paid for by  
46 the State Board of Education and administered by the provider of such

47 nationally recognized college readiness assessment in accordance with  
48 the provisions of the agreement between the state board and such  
49 provider, pursuant to section 10-14x.

50 (d) The scores on each component of the mastery examination, as  
51 defined in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section, for each  
52 eleventh grade student may be included on the permanent record and  
53 transcript of each such student who takes such examination. For each  
54 eleventh grade student who meets or exceeds the state-wide mastery  
55 goal level on any component of the mastery examination, a certification  
56 of having met or exceeded such goal level shall be made on the  
57 permanent record and the transcript of each such student and such  
58 student shall be issued a certificate of mastery for such component.

59 (e) No public school may require achievement of a satisfactory score  
60 on a mastery examination, or any subsequent retest on a component of  
61 such examination as the sole criterion of promotion or graduation.

62 (f) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school  
63 year thereafter, the scores on each component of the mastery  
64 examination for students who are multilingual learners, as defined in  
65 section 10-76kk, and who have been enrolled in a school in this state or  
66 another state for fewer than twenty school months, shall not be used for  
67 purposes of calculating the accountability index, as defined in section  
68 10-223e, for a school or school district.

69 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year  
70 thereafter, mastery examinations pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
71 section shall be offered in the most common native language of students  
72 who are multilingual learners taking such mastery examinations and  
73 any additional native languages of such students when mastery  
74 examinations in such native languages are developed and have been  
75 approved by the United States Department of Education.

76 (g) (1) Not later than August fifteenth of each school year, the  
77 Department of Education shall notify each local and regional board of  
78 education of the scores of students under the jurisdiction of the board

79 on the mastery examination administered during the previous school  
80 year.

81 (2) Not later than October first of each school year, each local and  
82 regional board of education shall notify the parent or guardian of a  
83 student who had taken the mastery examination that was administered  
84 during the previous school year of such student's scores on such  
85 mastery examination.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	10-14n

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill has no fiscal impact. Starting in FY 27, it reduces the frequency of the state mastery exam in reading, writing, and math, requiring students take the exam in grades four, six, and eight rather than three through eight. State standardized math and reading or language arts exams are required in grades three through eight to qualify for federal Title I education funding. The State Department of Education (SDE) will require continued access to the testing program, content, and interim exams for all grades even if federal law is changed or a waiver is granted. The bill does not result in a savings to SDE or local and regional school districts.

The bill also requires school districts to notify by October 1 a student's parent of their score on the mastery exam taken during the prior school year. It is anticipated that school districts can meet this requirement with existing resources.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 7011*****AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT STATE-WIDE ASSESSMENTS.*****SUMMARY**

Starting with the 2026-27 school year, this bill reduces the frequency with which public school students must take standardized assessments (“mastery exams”) in certain subjects.

Under current law, students in grades three through eight must annually take a mastery exam in reading, writing, and math. This testing schedule conforms with federal law governing Title I funding (see BACKGROUND). Starting with the 2026-27 school year, the bill instead requires students to take this exam in grades four, six, and eight.

By law, unchanged by the bill, students must also take a (1) mastery exam in science in grades 5, 8, and 11 and (2) college readiness exam in grade 11.

The bill also requires local and regional boards of education, by October 1, to notify parents and guardians about their child’s score on a mastery exam taken the previous school year. By law, the State Department of Education must give the boards the mastery exam scores by August 15 of each school year following the exam administration.

Lastly, the bill makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

**BACKGROUND*****Mastery Exams***

By law, the State Board of Education (SBE) must select and approve mastery exams that measure essential and grade-appropriate skills in the required subjects.

In practice, SBE has approved (1) the Smarter Balanced Assessment, or SBAC, for reading, writing, and math; (2) Next Generation Science Standards for science; and (3) the SAT for the required college readiness exam.

### **Federal Law on Standardized Assessments**

As a condition of receiving Title I education funds, federal law requires states to submit a plan that meets numerous requirements, including implementing high-quality academic assessments in mathematics, reading or language arts, and science. It specifically requires assessments in (1) math and reading or language arts to be given in grades three through eight and at least once in grades 9 through 12 and (2) science to be given at least once in each of grades three through five, grades six through nine, and grades 10 through 12 (20 U.S.C. § 6311(b)(2)). Federal law grants the U.S. Department of Education secretary broad authority to waive federal statutory and regulatory requirements upon request by a state or local education agency, including the standardized testing requirements (20 U.S.C. § 7861).

Title I is the largest federal K-12 grant program, and it provides supplemental funding to schools to improve learning outcomes for underserved students.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39      Nay 5      (03/28/2025)