

SENATE FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL 48

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; ELIMINATING CERTAIN GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,  
Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-2-8.4. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. --

A. At the end of the eighth grade or during the  
ninth grade, each student shall prepare an individual program  
of study for grades nine through twelve. The program of study  
shall be signed by a student's parent or guardian.

B. [~~Beginning with students entering the ninth  
grade in the 1986-87 school year~~] Successful completion of a  
minimum of twenty-three units shall be required for graduation.

1 These units shall be as follows:

2 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis  
3 on grammar and literature;

4 (2) three units in mathematics;

5 (3) two units in science, one of which shall  
6 have a laboratory component;

7 (4) three units in social science, which shall  
8 include United States history and geography, world history and  
9 geography, and government and economics;

10 (5) one unit in physical fitness;

11 [~~(6) one unit in communication skills, with~~  
12 ~~major emphasis on writing and speaking, which may include a~~  
13 ~~language other than English;~~] and

14 [~~(7) nine~~] (6) ten elective units. Only the  
15 following elective units shall be counted toward meeting the  
16 requirements for graduation: fine arts, [~~i.e.~~] including  
17 music, band, chorus and art; [~~practical arts~~] physical  
18 education; languages other than English; speech; drama;  
19 vocational education; ~~mathematics;~~ science; English; [~~R.O.T.C.~~]  
20 reserve officers' training corps; social science; computer  
21 science; health education; American sign language; and other  
22 electives approved by the state board.

23 With the approval of the local school board, participation  
24 on an athletic team or in an athletic sport during the school  
25

1 day may count toward fulfillment of the physical education  
2 required unit.

3 ~~[C. Final examinations shall be administered to all~~  
4 ~~students in all classes offered for credit.~~

5 ~~D. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade~~  
6 ~~in the 1986-87 school year]~~

7 C. No student shall receive a high school diploma  
8 who has not passed a state competency examination in the  
9 subject areas of reading, English, math, science and social  
10 science. ~~[Beginning with the 1996-97 school year]~~ The state  
11 competency examinations on social science shall include a  
12 section on the constitution of the United States and the  
13 constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the school  
14 system at the end of grade twelve without having passed a state  
15 competency examination, he shall receive an appropriate state  
16 certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the  
17 grade completed. If within five years after a student exits  
18 from the school system he takes and passes the state competency  
19 examination, he may receive a high school diploma.

20 ~~[E.]~~ D. The state board may establish a policy to  
21 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify  
22 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code."