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SENATE BILL 382

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez and Rick Miera

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND  
CHARTER SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH POLICIES THAT PROVIDE EXCUSED  
ABSENCES FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS FOR DOCUMENTED  
PREGNANCIES, FOR THE DOCUMENTED BIRTH OF THE STUDENT'S CHILD AND  
FOR ABSENCES OF A PARENTING STUDENT TO CARE FOR THE STUDENT'S  
CHILD WHO IS UNDER THE AGE OF THIRTEEN; REQUIRING STUDENTS TO  
BE GRANTED TIME FOR MAKE-UP WORK; REQUIRING DISTRIBUTION OF  
POLICIES TO ALL SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS.

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

**SECTION 1.** A new section of Chapter 22, Article 12 NMSA  
1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR PREGNANT AND  
PARENTING STUDENTS.--

A. Each school district and charter school shall

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new  
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1 maintain an attendance policy that:

2 (1) provides ten days of excused absences for  
3 a student who provides documentation of the birth of the  
4 student's child; provided that the student shall be allowed a  
5 time period to make up the work that the student missed that  
6 equals the number of days the student was absent for the birth  
7 of a child; and

8 (2) provides four days of excused absences for  
9 a student who provides appropriate documentation of pregnancy  
10 or that the student is the parent of a child under the age of  
11 thirteen needing care; and allows the student a time period to  
12 make up the work that the student missed that equals the number  
13 of days the student was absent.

14 B. The pregnant or parenting student is responsible  
15 for communicating the student's pregnancy and parenting status  
16 to the appropriate school personnel if the student chooses to  
17 disclose the information.

18 C. The school district or charter school shall  
19 provide a copy of the pregnant and parenting student absence  
20 policies to all students in middle, junior high and high  
21 schools."