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SENATE BILL 169

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

INTRODUCED BY

George K. Munoz

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ALLOWING SUMMER CIVICS COURSES TO  
BE OFFERED AS ELECTIVES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,  
Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 2010, Chapter 25,  
Section 1 and by Laws 2010, Chapter 110, Section 1) is amended  
to read:

"22-13-1.1. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.--

A. At the end of grades eight through eleven, each  
student shall prepare an interim next-step plan that sets forth  
the coursework for the grades remaining until high school  
graduation. Each year's plan shall explain any differences  
from previous interim next-step plans, shall be filed with the  
principal of the student's high school and shall be signed by

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1 the student, the student's parent and the student's guidance  
2 counselor or other school official charged with coursework  
3 planning for the student.

4 B. Each student must complete a final next-step  
5 plan during the senior year and prior to graduation. The plan  
6 shall be filed with the principal of the student's high school  
7 and shall be signed by the student, the student's parent and  
8 the student's guidance counselor or other school official  
9 charged with coursework planning for the student.

10 C. An individualized education program that meets  
11 the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section and  
12 that meets all applicable transition and procedural  
13 requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities  
14 Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy the  
15 next-step plan requirements of this section for that student.

16 D. A local school board shall ensure that each high  
17 school student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan  
18 based on reports of college and workplace readiness  
19 assessments, as available, and other factors and is reasonably  
20 informed about:

21 (1) curricular and course options, including  
22 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,  
23 distance learning courses, career clusters, pre-apprenticeship  
24 programs or remediation programs that the college and workplace  
25 readiness assessments indicate to be appropriate;

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1 (2) opportunities available that lead to  
2 different post-high-school options; and

3 (3) alternative opportunities available if the  
4 student does not finish a planned curriculum.

5 E. The secretary shall:

6 (1) establish specific accountability  
7 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school  
8 district staff to ensure that every student has the opportunity  
9 to develop a next-step plan;

10 (2) promulgate rules for accredited private  
11 schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the  
12 provisions of this section;

13 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements  
14 of this section; and

15 (4) compile such information as is necessary  
16 to evaluate the success of next-step plans and report annually,  
17 by December 15, to the legislative education study committee  
18 and the governor.

19 F. Successful completion of a minimum of twenty-  
20 three units aligned to the state academic content and  
21 performance standards shall be required for graduation. These  
22 units shall be as follows:

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

25 (2) three units in mathematics, at least one

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1 of which is equivalent to the algebra 1 level or higher;

2 (3) two units in science, one of which shall  
3 have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with  
4 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006  
5 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of  
6 which shall 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 education;

11 (6) one unit in communication skills or  
12 business education, with a major emphasis on writing and  
13 speaking and that may include a language other than English;

14 (7) one-half unit in New Mexico history for  
15 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006  
16 school year; and

17 (8) nine elective units and seven and  
18 one-half elective units for students entering the ninth grade  
19 in the 2005-2006 school year that meet department content and  
20 performance standards. Student service learning shall be  
21 offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as  
22 an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as  
23 electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective. A  
24 summer civics course or program may be offered as an elective.

25 G. For students entering the ninth grade beginning

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1 in the 2009-2010 school year, at least one of the units  
2 required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced  
3 placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in  
4 cooperation with an institution of higher education or a  
5 distance learning course.

6 H. The department shall establish a procedure for  
7 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified  
8 career technical education courses for certain graduation  
9 requirements.

10 I. Successful completion of the requirements of the  
11 New Mexico diploma of excellence shall be required for  
12 graduation for students entering the ninth grade beginning in  
13 the 2009-2010 school year. Successful completion of a minimum  
14 of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic content and  
15 performance standards shall be required to earn a New Mexico  
16 diploma of excellence. These units shall be as follows:

17 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis  
18 on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature;

19 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one  
20 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra  
21 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for  
22 the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit; and provided  
23 that a financial literacy course that meets state mathematics  
24 academic content and performance standards shall qualify as one  
25 of the four required mathematics units;

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1 (3) three units in science, two of which shall  
2 have a laboratory component;

3 (4) three and one-half units in social  
4 science, which shall include United States history and  
5 geography, world history and geography, government and  
6 economics and one-half unit of New Mexico history;

7 (5) one unit in physical education;

8 (6) one unit in one of the following:  
9 a career cluster course, workplace readiness or a language  
10 other than English; and

11 (7) seven and one-half elective units that  
12 meet department content and performance standards. Student  
13 service learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial  
14 literacy shall be offered as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship  
15 programs may be offered as electives. Media literacy may be  
16 offered as an elective. A summer civics course or program may  
17 be offered as an elective.

18 J. For students entering the eighth grade in the  
19 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is required  
20 prior to graduation. Health education may be required in  
21 either middle school or high school, as determined by the  
22 school district. Each school district shall submit to the  
23 department by the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year a  
24 health education implementation plan for the 2012-2013 and  
25 subsequent school years, including in which grade health

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1 education will be required and how the course aligns with  
2 department content and performance standards.

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

5 L. Until July 1, 2010, a student who has not passed  
6 a state graduation examination in the subject areas of reading,  
7 English, mathematics, writing, science and social science shall  
8 not receive a high school diploma. The state graduation  
9 examination on social science shall include a section on the  
10 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New  
11 Mexico. If a student exits from the school system at the end  
12 of grade twelve without having passed a state graduation  
13 examination, the student shall receive an appropriate state  
14 certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the  
15 grade completed. If within five years after a student exits  
16 from the school system the student takes and passes the state  
17 graduation examination, the student may receive a high school  
18 diploma. Any student passing the state graduation examination  
19 and completing all other requirements within five years of  
20 entering ninth grade, including a final summer session if  
21 completed by August 1, may be counted by the school system in  
22 which the student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the  
23 year in which completion and examination occur.

24 M. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a  
25 student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence if

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1 the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject  
2 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,  
3 social studies and science, including a section on the  
4 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New  
5 Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or assessments or  
6 a portfolio of standards-based indicators established by the  
7 department by rule. The standards-based assessments required  
8 in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may also serve as the assessment  
9 required for high school graduation. If a student exits from  
10 the school system at the end of grade twelve without having  
11 satisfied the requirements of this subsection, the student  
12 shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the  
13 number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within  
14 five years after a student exits from the school system the  
15 student satisfies the requirement of this subsection, the  
16 student may receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence. Any  
17 student satisfying the requirements of this subsection and  
18 completing all other requirements within five years of entering  
19 ninth grade, including a final summer session if completed by  
20 August 1, may be counted by the school system in which the  
21 student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in  
22 which all requirements are satisfied.

23 N. As used in this section:

24 (1) "final next-step plan" means a next-step  
25 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to

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1 commit in the near future to a four-year college or university,  
2 a two-year college, a trade or vocational program, an  
3 internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job;

4 (2) "interim next-step plan" means an annual  
5 next-step plan in which the student specifies post-high-school  
6 goals and sets forth the coursework that will allow the student  
7 to achieve those goals; and

8 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal  
9 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public  
10 school or other state-supported school or institution in  
11 consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or  
12 other school official charged with coursework planning for the  
13 student that includes one or more of the following:

14 (a) advanced placement or honors  
15 courses;

16 (b) dual-credit courses offered in  
17 cooperation with an institution of higher education;

18 (c) distance learning courses;

19 (d) career-technical courses; and

20 (e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

21 0. The secretary may establish a policy to provide  
22 for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and  
23 testing provisions of the Public School Code."