

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 134

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; PROVIDING THAT MATHEMATICS OR
SCIENCE UNITS REQUIRED FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION MAY INCLUDE A
COMPUTER SCIENCE UNIT.

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 2016, Chapter 17,
Section 2 and by Laws 2016, Chapter 18, Section 2) 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

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underscored material = new
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1 principal of the student's high school and shall be signed by
2 the student, the student's parent and the student's guidance
3 counselor or other school official charged with coursework
4 planning for the student.

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

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

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

22 (1) curricular and course options, including
23 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,
24 distance learning courses, career clusters and career pathways,
25 pre-apprenticeship programs or remediation programs that the

1 college and workplace readiness assessments indicate to be
2 appropriate;

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

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

7 E. The secretary shall:

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

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

15 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements
16 of this section; and

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

21 F. Once a student has entered ninth grade, the
22 graduation requirements shall not be changed for that student
23 from the requirements specified in the law at the time the
24 student entered ninth grade.

25 G. Successful completion of a minimum of twenty-

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1 three units aligned to the state academic content and
2 performance standards shall be required for graduation. These
3 units shall be as follows:

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

6 (2) three units in mathematics, at least one
7 of which is equivalent to the algebra 1 level or higher;

8 (3) two units in science, one of which shall
9 have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with
10 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006
11 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of
12 which shall have a laboratory component;

13 (4) three units in social science, which shall
14 include United States history and geography, world history and
15 geography and government and economics;

16 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

23 (8) nine elective units and seven and one-half
24 elective units for students entering the ninth grade in the
25 2005-2006 school year that meet department content and

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1 performance standards. Student service learning shall be
2 offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as
3 an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as
4 electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective.

5 H. For students entering the ninth grade beginning
6 in the 2009-2010 school year, at least one of the units
7 required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced
8 placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in
9 cooperation with an institution of higher education or a
10 distance learning course.

11 I. The department shall establish a procedure for
12 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified
13 career technical education courses for certain graduation
14 requirements, and districts may choose to allow students who
15 successfully complete an industry-recognized credential,
16 certificate or degree to receive additional weight in the
17 calculation of the student's grade point average.

18 J. Successful completion of the requirements of the
19 New Mexico diploma of excellence shall be required for
20 graduation for students entering the ninth grade beginning in
21 the 2009-2010 school year. Successful completion of a minimum
22 of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic content and
23 performance standards shall be required to earn a New Mexico
24 diploma of excellence. These units shall be as follows:

25 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis

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1 on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature;

2 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one
3 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra
4 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for
5 the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit; and provided
6 that a financial literacy course that meets state mathematics
7 academic content and performance standards shall qualify as one
8 of the four required mathematics units;

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

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

15 (5) one unit in physical education, as
16 determined by each school district, which may include a
17 physical education program that meets state content and
18 performance standards or participation in marching band, junior
19 reserve officers' training corps or interscholastic sports
20 sanctioned by the New Mexico activities association or any
21 other co-curricular physical activity;

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

25 (7) seven and one-half elective units that

1 meet department content and performance standards. Career and
2 technical education courses shall be offered as an elective.
3 Student service learning shall be offered as an elective.
4 Financial literacy shall be offered as an elective. Pre-
5 apprenticeship programs may be offered as electives. Media
6 literacy may be offered as an elective.

7 K. For students entering the eighth grade in the
8 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is required
9 prior to graduation. Health education may be required in
10 either middle school or high school, as determined by the
11 school district. Each school district shall submit to the
12 department by the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year a
13 health education implementation plan for the 2012-2013 and
14 subsequent school years, including in which grade health
15 education will be required and how the course aligns with
16 department content and performance standards. Health education
17 courses shall include:

18 (1) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault
19 awareness and prevention training that meets department
20 standards developed in consultation with the federal centers
21 for disease control and prevention that are based on evidence-
22 based methods that have proven to be effective; and

23 (2) lifesaving skills training that follows
24 nationally recognized guidelines for hands-on psychomotor
25 skills cardiopulmonary resuscitation training. Students shall

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1 be trained to recognize the signs of a heart attack, use an
2 automated external defibrillator and perform the Heimlich
3 maneuver for choking victims. The secretary shall promulgate
4 rules to provide for the:

5 (a) use of the following instructors for
6 the training provided pursuant to this paragraph: 1) school
7 nurses, health teachers and athletic department personnel as
8 instructors; and 2) any qualified persons volunteering to
9 provide training at no cost to the school district that the
10 school district determines to be eligible to offer instruction
11 pursuant to this paragraph; and

12 (b) approval of training and
13 instructional materials related to the training established
14 pursuant to this paragraph in both English and Spanish.

15 L. For students entering the ninth grade in the
16 2017-2018 school year and subsequent school years:

17 (1) one of the units in mathematics required
18 by Paragraph (2) of Subsection J of this section may comprise a
19 computer science course if taken after the student demonstrates
20 competence in mathematics and if the course is not used to
21 satisfy any part of the requirement set forth in Paragraph (3)
22 of that subsection; and

23 (2) one of the units in science required by
24 Paragraph (3) of Subsection J of this section may comprise a
25 computer science course if taken after the student demonstrates

1 competence in science and if the course is not used to satisfy
2 any part of the requirement set forth in Paragraph (2) of that
3 subsection.

4 ~~[L-]~~ M. Final examinations shall be administered to
5 all students in all classes offered for credit.

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

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1 [~~N.~~] O. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a
2 student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence if
3 the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject
4 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,
5 social studies and science, including a section on the
6 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New
7 Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or assessments or
8 a portfolio of standards-based indicators established by the
9 department by rule. The standards-based assessments required
10 in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may also serve as the assessment
11 required for high school graduation. If a student exits from
12 the school system at the end of grade twelve without having
13 satisfied the requirements of this subsection, the student
14 shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the
15 number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within
16 five years after a student exits from the school system the
17 student satisfies the requirements of this subsection, the
18 student may receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence. Any
19 student satisfying the requirements of this subsection and
20 completing all other requirements within five years of entering
21 ninth grade, including a final summer session if completed by
22 August 1, may be counted by the school system in which the
23 student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in
24 which all requirements are satisfied.

25 [~~Q.~~] P. As used in this section:

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1 (1) "career and technical education",
2 sometimes referred to as "vocational education", means
3 organized programs offering a sequence of courses, including
4 technical education and applied technology education, that are
5 directly related to the preparation of individuals for paid or
6 unpaid employment in current or emerging occupations requiring
7 an industry-recognized credential, certificate or degree;

8 (2) "career and technical education course"
9 means a course with content that provides technical knowledge,
10 skills and competency-based applied learning and that aligns
11 with educational standards and expectations as defined in rule;

12 (3) "career cluster" means a grouping of
13 occupations in industry sectors based on recognized
14 commonalities that provide an organizing tool for developing
15 instruction within the educational system;

16 (4) "career pathways" means a sub-grouping
17 used as an organizing tool for curriculum design and
18 instruction of occupations and career specialities that share a
19 set of common knowledge and skills for career success;

20 (5) "final next-step plan" means a next-step
21 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to
22 commit in the near future to a four-year college or university,
23 a two-year college, a trade or vocational program, an
24 internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job;

25 (6) "interim next-step plan" means an annual

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1 next-step plan in which the student specifies post-high-school
2 goals and sets forth the coursework that will allow the student
3 to achieve those goals; and

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

10 (a) advanced placement or honors
11 courses;

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

14 (c) distance learning courses;

15 (d) career-technical courses; and

16 (e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

17 [~~P.~~] Q. The secretary may establish a policy to
18 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify
19 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code."