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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 principal of the student's high school and
shall be signed by the student, the student's parent and the
student's guidance counselor or other school official charged
with coursework planning for the student.

B. Each student must complete a final next-step
plan during the senior year and prior to graduation. The
plan shall be filed with the principal of the student's high
school and shall be signed by the student, the student's
parent and the student's guidance counselor or other school

1 official charged with coursework planning for the student.

2 C. An individualized education program that meets
3 the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section and
4 that meets all applicable transition and procedural
5 requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
6 Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy
7 the next-step plan requirements of this section for that
8 student.

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

14 (1) curricular and course options, including
15 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,
16 distance learning courses, career clusters and career
17 pathways, pre-apprenticeship programs or remediation programs
18 that the college and workplace readiness assessments indicate
19 to be appropriate;

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

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

24 E. The secretary shall:

25 (1) establish specific accountability

1 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school
2 district staff to ensure that every student has the
3 opportunity to develop a next-step plan;

4 (2) promulgate rules for accredited private
5 schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the
6 provisions of this section;

7 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements
8 of this section; and

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

13 F. Once a student has entered ninth grade, the
14 graduation requirements shall not be changed for that student
15 from the requirements specified in the law at the time the
16 student entered ninth grade.

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

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

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

25 (3) two units in science, one of which shall

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

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

8 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

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

22 H. For students entering the ninth grade beginning
23 in the 2009-2010 school year, at least one of the units
24 required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced
25 placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in

1 cooperation with an institution of higher education or a
2 distance learning course.

3 I. The department shall establish a procedure for
4 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified
5 career technical education courses for certain graduation
6 requirements, and districts may choose to allow students who
7 successfully complete an industry-recognized credential,
8 certificate or degree to receive additional weight in the
9 calculation of the student's grade point average.

10 J. Successful completion of the requirements of
11 the 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
14 minimum of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic
15 content and performance standards shall be required to earn a
16 New Mexico diploma of excellence. These units shall be as
17 follows:

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

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

1 standards shall qualify as one of the four required
2 mathematics units;

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

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

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

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

19 (7) seven and one-half elective units that
20 meet department content and performance standards. Career
21 and technical education courses shall be offered as an
22 elective. Student service learning shall be offered as an
23 elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as an
24 elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as
25 electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective.

1 K. For students entering the eighth grade in the
2 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is
3 required prior to graduation. Health education may be
4 required in either middle school or high school, as
5 determined by the school district. Each school district
6 shall submit to the department by the beginning of the
7 2011-2012 school year a health education implementation plan
8 for the 2012-2013 and subsequent school years, including in
9 which grade health education will be required and how the
10 course aligns with department content and performance
11 standards. Health education courses shall include:

12 (1) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault
13 awareness and prevention training that meets department
14 standards developed in consultation with the federal centers
15 for disease control and prevention that are based on
16 evidence-based methods that have proven to be effective; and

17 (2) lifesaving skills training that follows
18 nationally recognized guidelines for hands-on psychomotor
19 skills cardiopulmonary resuscitation training. Students
20 shall be trained to recognize the signs of a heart attack,
21 use an automated external defibrillator and perform the
22 Heimlich maneuver for choking victims. The secretary shall
23 promulgate rules to provide for the:

24 (a) use of the following instructors
25 for the training provided pursuant to this paragraph:

1) school nurses, health teachers and athletic department personnel as instructors; and 2) any qualified persons volunteering to provide training at no cost to the school district that the school district determines to be eligible to offer instruction pursuant to this paragraph; and

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

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

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

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

M. Final examinations shall be administered to all students in all classes offered for credit.

N. Until July 1, 2010, a student who has not

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

20 O. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a
21 student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence
22 if the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject
23 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,
24 social studies and science, including a section on the
25 constitution of the United States and the constitution of

1 New Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or
2 assessments or a portfolio of standards-based indicators
3 established by the department by rule. The standards-based
4 assessments required in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may also
5 serve as the assessment required for high school graduation.
6 If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade
7 twelve without having satisfied the requirements of this
8 subsection, the student shall receive an appropriate state
9 certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the
10 grade completed. If within five years after a student exits
11 from the school system the student satisfies the requirements
12 of this subsection, the student may receive a New Mexico
13 diploma of excellence. Any student satisfying the
14 requirements of this subsection and completing all other
15 requirements within five years of entering ninth grade,
16 including a final summer session if completed by August 1,
17 may be counted by the school system in which the student is
18 enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in which all
19 requirements are satisfied.

20 P. As used in this section:

21 (1) "career and technical education",
22 sometimes referred to as "vocational education", means
23 organized programs offering a sequence of courses, including
24 technical education and applied technology education, that
25 are directly related to the preparation of individuals for

1 paid or unpaid employment in current or emerging occupations
2 requiring an industry-recognized credential, certificate or
3 degree;

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

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

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

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

23 (6) "interim next-step plan" means an annual
24 next-step plan in which the student specifies post-high-
25 school goals and sets forth the coursework that will allow

