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SENATE BILL 134

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

INTRODUCED BY

Jacob R. Candelaria and Debra M. Sariñana

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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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

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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, and  
8 one of which may comprise a computer science course if taken  
9 after the student demonstrates competence in mathematics and if  
10 the course is not used to satisfy any part of the requirement  
11 set forth in Paragraph (3) of this subsection;

12 (3) two units in science, one of which shall  
13 have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with  
14 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006  
15 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of  
16 which shall have a laboratory component, and one of which may  
17 comprise a computer science course if taken after the student  
18 demonstrates competence in science and if the course is not  
19 used to satisfy any part of the requirement set forth in  
20 Paragraph (2) of this subsection;

21 (4) three units in social science, which shall  
22 include United States history and geography, world history and  
23 geography and government and economics;

24 (5) one unit in physical education;

25 (6) one unit in communication skills or

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1 business education, with a major emphasis on writing and  
2 speaking and that may include a language other than English;

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

6 (8) nine elective units and seven and one-half  
7 elective units for students entering the ninth grade in the  
8 2005-2006 school year that meet department content and  
9 performance standards. Student service learning shall be  
10 offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as  
11 an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as  
12 electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective.

13 H. For students entering the ninth grade beginning  
14 in the 2009-2010 school year, at least one of the units  
15 required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced  
16 placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in  
17 cooperation with an institution of higher education or a  
18 distance learning course.

19 I. The department shall establish a procedure for  
20 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified  
21 career technical education courses for certain graduation  
22 requirements, and districts may choose to allow students who  
23 successfully complete an industry-recognized credential,  
24 certificate or degree to receive additional weight in the  
25 calculation of the student's grade point average.

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1 J. Successful completion of the requirements of the  
2 New Mexico diploma of excellence shall be required for  
3 graduation for students entering the ninth grade beginning in  
4 the 2009-2010 school year. Successful completion of a minimum  
5 of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic content and  
6 performance standards shall be required to earn a New Mexico  
7 diploma of excellence. These units shall be as follows:

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

10 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one  
11 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra  
12 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for  
13 the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit, and one of  
14 which may comprise a computer science course if taken after the  
15 student demonstrates competence in mathematics and if the  
16 course is not used to satisfy any part of the requirement set  
17 forth in Paragraph (3) of this subsection; and provided that a  
18 financial literacy course that meets state mathematics academic  
19 content and performance standards shall qualify as one of the  
20 four required mathematics units;

21 (3) three units in science, two of which shall  
22 have a laboratory component, and one of which may comprise a  
23 computer science course if taken after the student demonstrates  
24 competence in science and if the course is not used to satisfy  
25 any part of the requirement set forth in Paragraph (2) of this

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1 subsection;

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

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

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

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

23 K. For students entering the eighth grade in the  
24 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is required  
25 prior to graduation. Health education may be required in

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

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

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

21 (a) use of the following instructors for  
22 the training provided pursuant to this paragraph: 1) school  
23 nurses, health teachers and athletic department personnel as  
24 instructors; and 2) any qualified persons volunteering to  
25 provide training at no cost to the school district that the

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1 school district determines to be eligible to offer instruction  
2 pursuant to this paragraph; and

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

6 L. Final examinations shall be administered to all  
7 students in all classes offered for credit.

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

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1 year in which completion and examination occur.

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

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1           0. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (a) advanced placement or honors  
12 courses;

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

15 (c) distance learning courses;

16 (d) career-technical courses; and

17 (e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

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