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AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE;
ALLOWING CERTAIN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSES TO
COUNT AS ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE CREDITS.

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) 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
official charged with coursework planning for the student.

C. An individualized education program that meets

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

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

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

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

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

22 E. The secretary shall:

23 (1) establish specific accountability
24 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school
25 district staff to ensure that every student has the

1 opportunity to develop a next-step plan;

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

5 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements
6 of this section; and

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

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

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

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

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

23 (3) two units in science, one of which shall
24 have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with
25 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006

1 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of
2 which shall have a laboratory component;

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

6 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (1) four units in English, with major
17 emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature;
18 provided that department-approved work-based training or
19 career and technical education courses that meet state
20 English academic content performance standards shall qualify
21 as one of the four required English units;

22 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one
23 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of
24 algebra 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed
25 permission for the student to complete a lesser mathematics

1 unit; and provided that a financial literacy course or
2 department-approved work-based training or career and
3 technical education course that meets state mathematics
4 academic content and performance standards shall qualify as
5 one of the four required mathematics units;

6 (3) three units in science, two of which
7 shall have a laboratory component; provided that department-
8 approved work-based training or career and technical
9 education courses that meet state science academic content
10 and performance standards shall qualify as one of the three
11 required science units;

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (2) lifesaving skills training that follows
25 nationally recognized guidelines for hands-on psychomotor

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

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

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

16 L. For students entering the ninth grade in the
17 2017-2018 school year and subsequent school years:

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

24 (2) one of the units in science required by
25 Paragraph (3) of Subsection J of this section may comprise a

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

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

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

1 completion and examination occur.

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

1 requirements are satisfied.

2 P. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (a) advanced placement or honors
17 courses;

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

20 (c) distance learning courses;

21 (d) career-technical courses; and

22 (e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

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