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SENATE BILL 400

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999**

INTRODUCED BY

Mark Boitano

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; CHANGING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

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

Section 1. Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-2-8.4. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. --

A. At the end of the eighth grade or during the ninth grade, each student shall prepare an individual program of study for grades nine through twelve. The program of study shall be signed by a student's parent or guardian.

B. [~~Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the 1986-87 school year~~] Successful completion of a minimum of [~~twenty-three~~] twenty-five units shall be required for graduation. These units shall be as follows:

(1) four units in English, with major

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 emphasis on grammar and literature;

2 (2) [~~three~~] four units in mathematics that  
3 includes one unit in algebra 1 or 2, one unit in geometry or  
4 one unit in any other higher level math course;

5 (3) [~~two~~] three units in science, one of  
6 which shall have a laboratory component;

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

10 (5) one unit in physical fitness;

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

14 (7) nine elective units. Only the following  
15 elective units shall be counted toward meeting the  
16 requirements for graduation: fine arts, i. e., music, band,  
17 chorus and art; practical arts; physical education; languages  
18 other than English; speech; drama; vocational education;  
19 mathematics; science; English; R. O. T. C.; social science;  
20 computer science; health education; American sign language;  
21 and other electives approved by the state board.

22 With the approval of the local school board,  
23 participation on an athletic team or in an athletic sport  
24 during the school day may count toward fulfillment of the  
25 physical education required unit.

underscored material = new  
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1 C. Final examinations shall be administered to all  
2 students in all classes offered for credit.

3 D. ~~[Beginning with students entering the ninth~~  
4 ~~grade in the 1986-87 school year]~~ No student shall receive a  
5 high school diploma who has not passed a state competency  
6 examination in the subject areas of reading, English, math,  
7 science and social science. ~~[Beginning with the 1996-97~~  
8 ~~school year]~~ The state competency examinations on social  
9 science shall include a section on the constitution of the  
10 United States and the constitution of New Mexico. If a  
11 student exits from the school system at the end of grade  
12 twelve without having passed a state competency examination,  
13 he shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating  
14 the number of credits earned and the grade completed. If  
15 within five years after a student exits from the school system  
16 he takes and passes the state competency examination, he may  
17 receive a high school diploma.

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