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### SENATE BILL 488

# 46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

# INTRODUCED BY

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### AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING ONE-HALF CREDIT IN HEALTH FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION; RECONCILING MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS IN LAWS 2001.

### 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 by Laws 2001, Chapter 257, Section 1 and by Laws 2001, Chapter 276, Section 1) 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

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1	in the [ <del>1986-87</del> ] <u>2003-2004</u> school year, successful completion
2	of a minimum of twenty-three units shall be required for
3	graduation. These 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;

- (3) two units in science, one of which shall have a laboratory component;
- (4) three units in social science, which shall include United States history and geography, world history and geography, and government and economics;
  - (5) one unit in physical [fitness] education;
- (6) one unit in communication skills, with major emphasis on writing and speaking, which may include a language other than English; [and]

# (7) one-half unit in health; and

[(7) nine] (8) eight and one-half elective units. Only the following elective units shall be counted toward meeting the requirements for graduation: fine arts, i.e., music, band, chorus and art; practical arts; physical education; languages other than English; speech; drama; vocational education; mathematics; science; English; [R.O.T.C.] reserve officers' training corps; social science; computer science; health education; American sign language; and other electives approved by the state board.

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With the approval of the local school board, participation in a marching band or on an athletic team or in an athletic sport during the school day may count toward fulfillment of the physical education required unit.

- C. Final examinations shall be administered to all students in all classes offered for credit.
- No student shall receive a high school diploma who has not passed a state graduation examination in the subject areas of reading, English, [math] mathematics, writing, science and social science. [Beginning with the 1996-97 school year] The state graduation examinations on social science shall include a section on the constitution of the United States and the constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade twelve without having passed a state graduation examination, he shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a student exits from the school system he takes and passes the state graduation examination, he may receive a high school diploma.
- The state board may establish a policy to E. provide for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code."