SENATE BILL 561

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN;
PROVIDING FOR COLLEGE AND WORKPLACE READINESS; PROVIDING NEW
ASSESSMENTS; RAISING THE AGE AT WHICH A STUDENT MAY DROP OUT OF
SCHOOL; ELIMINATING CERTIFICATES OF EMPLOYMENT; ELIMINATING
PART-TIME SCHOOLS; CHANGING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR A MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL LITERACY
INITIATIVE; RECONCILING MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS TO THE SAME SECTION
OF LAW IN LAWS 2005.

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

Section 1. Section 22-1-1.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 153, Section 2) is amended to read:

"22-1-1.2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.--

A. The legislature finds that no education system can be sufficient for the education of all children unless it .165761.2GR

is founded on the sound principle that every child can learn
and succeed and <u>that</u> the system must meet the needs of all
children by recognizing that student success for every child is
the fundamental goal.

- B. The legislature finds further that the key to student success in New Mexico is to have a multicultural education system that:
- (1) attracts and retains quality and diverse teachers to teach New Mexico's multicultural student population;
- (2) holds teachers, students, schools, school districts and the state accountable;
- (3) integrates the cultural strengths of its diverse student population into the curriculum with high expectations for all students;
- (4) recognizes that cultural diversity in the state presents special challenges for policymakers, administrators, teachers and students; [and]
- (5) provides students with a rigorous and relevant high school curriculum that prepares them to succeed in college and the workplace; and
- $\left[\frac{(5)}{(6)}\right]$ elevates the importance of public education in the state by clarifying the governance structure at different levels.
- C. The legislature finds further that the teacher .165761.2GR $\,$

shortage in this country has affected the ability of New Mexico to compete for the best teachers and that, unless the state and school districts find ways to mentor beginning teachers, intervene with teachers while they still show promise, improve the job satisfaction of quality teachers and elevate the teaching profession by shifting to a professional educator licensing and salary system, public schools will be unable to recruit and retain the highest quality teachers in the teaching profession in New Mexico.

- D. The legislature finds further that a well-designed, well-implemented and well-maintained assessment and accountability system is the linchpin of public school reform and must ensure that:
- (1) students who do not meet or exceed expectations will be given individual attention and assistance through extended learning programs and individualized tutoring;
- (2) students have accurate, useful information about their options and the adequacy of their preparation for post-secondary education, training or employment in order to set and achieve high goals;
- [(2)] (3) teachers who do not meet performance standards must improve their skills or they will not continue to be employed as teachers;
- $\left[\frac{(3)}{(4)}\right]$ public schools make adequate yearly progress toward educational excellence; and

- $\left[\frac{(4)}{(5)}\right]$ school districts and the state are prepared to actively intervene and improve failing public schools.
- E. The legislature finds further that improving children's reading and writing abilities and literacy throughout their years in school must remain a priority of the state.
- F. The legislature finds further that the public school governance structure needs to change to provide accountability from the bottom up instead of from the top down. Each school principal, with the help of school councils made up of parents and teachers, must be the instructional leader in the public school, motivating and holding accountable both teachers and students. Each local superintendent must function as the school district's chief executive officer and have responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the school district, including personnel and student disciplinary decisions.
- G. It is the purpose of [this] the 2003 public school reform legislation as augmented by this 2007 legislation to provide the framework to implement the legislative findings to ensure student success in New Mexico."
- Section 2. Section 22-2C-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 153, Section 10) is amended to read:
- "22-2C-1. SHORT TITLE.--Chapter 22, Article [$\frac{2A}{2C}$] $\frac{2C}{2C}$ NMSA .165761.2GR

1978	may	be	cited	as	the	"As	ssessm	nent	and	Acc	ount	abi:	lity	Act".
	Sec	ctio	n 3.	Sec	tion	22	-2C-4	NMS/	A 19	78	(beir	ng L	aws	2003,
Chapt	er	153,	Sect	ion	13,	as	amend	led)	is a	men	ded	to :	read	:

"22-2C-4. STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SYSTEM--INDICATORS--REQUIRED [TESTS] ASSESSMENTS--ALTERNATIVE

[TESTS] ASSESSMENTS--LIMITS ON ALTERNATIVES TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE

READING [TEST] ASSESSMENTS.--

A. The department shall establish a statewide assessment and accountability system that is aligned with the state academic content and performance standards and that measures adequate yearly progress for each [student] public school and school district. Adequate yearly progress shall be determined primarily by student academic achievement, as demonstrated by statewide standards-based [academic performance tests] assessments; however, the department may include other indicators of adequate yearly progress, including graduation rates for high schools and attendance for elementary and middle schools.

- B. The academic assessment program for adequate yearly progress shall test student achievement as follows [by the school year indicated]:
- (1) for grades three through [nine] eight and for grade eleven, standards-based [academic performance tests] assessments in mathematics, reading and language arts and social studies [by the 2005-2006 school year; provided that .165761.2GR

testing in ninth grade and testing in social studies shall not occur until the legislature has provided funding for test development and implementation];

- (2) for grades three through [nine] eight, a standards-based [academic performance] writing assessment with the writing assessment scoring criteria applied to the extended response writing portions of the language arts [criterion-referenced tests by the 2005-2006 school year] standards-based assessments; and
- (3) for one of grades three through five and six through [nine] eight and for grade eleven, standards-based [academic performance tests] assessments in science by the 2007-2008 school year.
- C. The department shall involve appropriate licensed school employees in the development of the standards-based [academic performance tests] assessments.
- D. All students shall participate in the academic assessment program. The department shall adopt standards for reasonable accommodations in [academic testing] standards-based assessments for students with disabilities and limited English proficiency, including when and how accommodations may be applied. The legislative education study committee shall review the standards prior to adoption by the department.
- E. Students who have been determined to be limited English proficient may be allowed to take the standards-based .165761.2GR

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[academic performance test] assessment in their primary language. A student who has attended school for three consecutive years in the United States shall participate in the English language reading [test] assessment unless granted a waiver by the department based on criteria established by the department. An English language reading [test] assessment waiver may be granted only for a maximum of two additional years and only on a case-by-case basis."

Section 4. A new section of Chapter 22, Article 2C NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] STATEWIDE COLLEGE AND WORKPLACE READINESS ASSESSMENT SYSTEM. --

The department shall establish a readiness assessment system to measure the readiness of every New Mexico high school student for success in higher education or a career no later than the 2008-2009 school year. The department shall ensure that the readiness assessment system is aligned with state academic content and performance standards, college placement tests and entry-level career skill requirements. readiness assessment system shall include the following components:

- a high school readiness assessment in (1) English, reading, mathematics and science in the fall semester of grade nine;
- a college readiness assessment in English, .165761.2GR

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reading and mathematics in grade ten; and

- a workplace readiness assessment to assess applied skills in reading, mathematics and locating information in grade eleven.
- All students at the specified grade level shall participate in the readiness assessment system at no cost to the student for the first administration of each assessment. If a student elects to retake any of the assessments, the school district may require the student to pay some or all of the cost of administering that assessment.
- The department shall ensure that results of performance on readiness assessments are reported to students, parents and public schools no later than four weeks following the date on which the assessments are administered, in a form that is easily understandable and useful in the next-step planning process. Reports of assessment results shall be provided to students and parents in writing whenever possible, but, if necessary, orally in the language best understood by each student and parent.
- The department shall adopt standards for reasonable accommodations in the administration of readiness assessments for students with disabilities and limited English proficiency, including when and how accommodations may be applied.
- In developing or selecting the high school or .165761.2GR

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college readiness assessments, the department may adopt commercially available standards-based assessments that meet the requirements of this section. The department shall involve appropriate licensed school employees in the development or selection of readiness assessments."

Section 5. Section 22-8-43 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2000 (2nd S.S.), Chapter 14, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-43. PUBLIC SCHOOL READING PROFICIENCY FUND--CREATED .-- The "public school reading proficiency fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund shall be administered by the department, and money in the fund is appropriated to the department to distribute awards to public middle, junior and senior high schools that implement innovative, scientifically based reading programs. department shall develop procedures and rules for the application and award of money from the fund, including criteria upon which to evaluate innovative, scientifically based reading programs. Public schools receiving funds shall show evidence that they are using quality, scientifically based reading research to improve reading proficiency and shall develop individualized reading plans for students who fail to meet grade level reading proficiency standards. Disbursements of the fund shall be made by warrant of the department of .165761.2GR

finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the [state superintendent] secretary or the secretary's authorized representative. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain to the credit of the fund."

Section 6. Section 22-12-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1967, Chapter 16, Section 170, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-12-2. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE--RESPONSIBILITY.--

[A. Any qualified student and any person who because of the person's age is eligible to become a qualified student as defined by the Public School Finance Act until attaining the age of majority shall attend a public school, a private school, a home school or a state institution. A person shall be excused from this requirement if:

(1) the person is specifically exempted by law from the provisions of this section;

(2) the person has graduated from a high school;

(3) the person is at least seventeen years of age and has been excused by the local school board or the governing body of a state-chartered charter school or its authorized representative upon a finding that the person will be employed in a gainful trade or occupation or engaged in an alternative form of education sufficient for the person's educational needs and the parent consents; or

(4) with consent of the parent of the person
to be excused, the person is excused from the provisions of
this section by the superintendent of schools of the school
district or by the head administrator of the state-chartered
charter school and the person is under eight years of age.]

A. A school-age person shall attend public school,
private school, home school or a state institution until the

A. A school-age person shall attend public school, private school, home school or a state institution until the school-age person is at least eighteen years of age unless that person has graduated from high school or received a general educational development certificate.

- B. A <u>school-age</u> person subject to the provisions of the Compulsory School Attendance Law shall attend school for at least the length of time of the school year that is established in the school district in which the person is a resident or the state-chartered charter school in which the person is enrolled and the school district or state-chartered charter school shall not excuse a student from attending school except as provided in that law or for parent-authorized medical reasons.
- C. Any parent of a <u>school-age</u> person subject to the provisions of the Compulsory School Attendance Law is responsible for the school attendance of that person.
- D. Each local school board and each governing body of a charter school or private school shall enforce the provisions of the Compulsory School Attendance Law for students enrolled in their respective schools."

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Section 7. Section 22-13-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 153, Section 57, as amended) is amended to read:

- "22-13-1. SUBJECT AREAS--MINIMUM INSTRUCTIONAL AREAS REQUIRED -- ACCREDITATION . --
- The department shall require public schools to address department-approved academic content and performance standards when instructing in specific department-required subject areas as provided in this section. A public school or school district failing to meet these minimum requirements shall not be accredited by the department.
- All kindergarten through third grade classes shall provide daily instruction in reading and language arts skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics and comprehension, and in mathematics. Students in kindergarten and first grades shall be screened and monitored for progress in reading and language arts skills and students in second grade shall take diagnostic tests on reading and language arts skills.
- All first, second and third grade classes shall provide instruction in art, music and a language other than English, and instruction that meets content and performance standards shall be provided in physical education and health education.
- In fourth through eighth grades, instruction that meets academic content and performance standards shall be .165761.2GR

provided in the following subject areas:	
(1) reading and language arts skills, with a	ın
emphasis on writing and editing for at least one year and an	
emphasis on grammar and writing for at least one year;	
(2) mathematics;	
(3) language other than English;	
(4) communication skills;	
(5) science;	
(6) art;	
(7) music;	
(8) social studies;	
(9) New Mexico history;	
(10) United States history;	
(11) geography;	

E. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, in eighth grade, algebra 1 shall be offered in regular classroom settings or through on-line courses or agreements with high schools.

(12) physical education; and

health education.

(13)

[E.] F. In fourth through eighth grades, school districts shall offer electives that contribute to academic growth and skill development and provide career and technical education.

[F.] G. In ninth through twelfth grades, .165761.2GR

instruction that meets academic content and performance standards shall be provided in health education."

Section 8. Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 2005, Chapter 314, Section 1 and by Laws 2005, Chapter 315, Section 10) 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 the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section and that meets all applicable transition and procedural

requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy the

next-step plan requirements of this section for that student.

- D. A local school board shall ensure that each high school student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan based on reports of college and workplace readiness assessments, as available, and other factors and is reasonably informed about:
- (1) curricular and course options, <u>including</u>

 <u>honors or advanced placement courses</u>, <u>dual-credit courses</u>,

 <u>distance learning courses</u>, <u>career clusters or remediation</u>

 <u>programs that the college and workplace readiness assessments</u>

 <u>indicate to be appropriate</u>;
- (2) opportunities available that lead to different post-high-school options; and
- (3) alternative opportunities available if the student does not finish a planned curriculum.

E. The secretary shall:

- (1) establish specific accountability standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school district staff to ensure that every student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan;
- (2) promulgate rules for accredited private schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the provisions of this section;

1	(3) monitor compliance with the requirements
2	of this section; and
3	(4) compile such information as is necessary
4	to evaluate the success of next-step plans and report annually,
5	by December 15, to the legislative education study committee
6	and the governor.
7	F. Successful completion of a minimum of twenty-
8	three units aligned to the state academic content and
9	performance standards shall be required for graduation. These
10	units shall be as follows:
11	(1) four units in English, with major emphasis
12	on grammar and literature;
13	(2) three units in mathematics, at least one
14	of which is equivalent to the algebra l level or higher;
15	(3) two units in science, one of which shall
16	have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with
17	students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006
18	school year, three units in science shall be required, one of
19	which shall have a laboratory component;
20	(4) three units in social science, which shall
21	include United States history and geography, world history and
22	geography and government and economics;
23	(5) one unit in physical education;
24	(6) one unit in communication skills or
25	business education, with a major emphasis on writing and
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speaking	and	that	may	include	а	1anguage	other	than	English;

- (7) one-half unit in New Mexico history for students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006 school year; and
- (8) nine elective units and seven and one-half elective units for students entering the ninth grade in the 2005-2006 school year that meet department content and performance standards. Student service learning shall be offered as an elective.
- G. For students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, at least one of the units required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in cooperation with an institution of higher education or a distance learning course.
- [G.] $\underline{H.}$ The department shall establish a procedure for students to be awarded credit through completion of specified career technical education courses for certain graduation requirements.
- New Mexico diploma of excellence shall be required for graduation for students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, unless a student has written, signed permission from the student's parent to be exempt from the algebra 2 or higher mathematics requirement of Paragraph (2) of .165761.2GR

1	this subsection. Successful completion of a minimum of
2	twenty-four units aligned to the state academic content and
3	performance standards shall be required to earn a New Mexico
4	diploma of excellence. These units shall be as follows:
5	(1) four units in English, with major emphasis
6	on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature;
7	(2) four units in mathematics, at least one of
8	which is equivalent to the level of algebra 2 or higher;
9	(3) three units in science, two of which shall
10	have a laboratory component;
11	(4) three and one-half units in social
12	science, which shall include United States history and
13	geography, world history and geography and government and
14	economics, and one-half unit of New Mexico history;
15	(5) two units in a language other than
16	English;
17	(6) one unit in physical education;
18	(7) one unit in communication skills or
19	business education, with a major emphasis on writing and
20	speaking, which may include a language other than English; and
21	(8) five and one-half elective units that meet
22	department content and performance standards. Student service
23	learning shall be offered as an elective.
24	[H_{\bullet}] J_{\bullet} Final examinations shall be administered to
25	all students in all alasses offered for arodit

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[1.] K. Until July 1, 2010, a student [shall not receive a high school diploma who has not passed a state graduation examination in the subject areas of reading, English, mathematics, writing, science and social science shall not receive a high school diploma. The state graduation examination on social science shall include a section on the constitution of the United States and the constitution of New If a student exits from the school system at the end Mexico. of grade twelve without having passed a state graduation examination, the student 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 the student takes and passes the state graduation examination, the student may receive a high school diploma.

L. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a student shall not receive a high school diploma if the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing, social studies and science, including a section on the constitution of the United States and the constitution of New Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or assessments or a portfolio of standards-based indicators established by the department by rule no later than January 15, 2008. If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade twelve without having

satisfied the requirements of this subsection, the student 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 the student satisfies the requirement of this subsection, the student may receive a high school diploma.

$[J_{\bullet}]$ M. As used in this section:

- (1) "final next-step plan" means a next-step plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to commit in the near future to a four-year college or university, a two-year college, a trade or vocational program, an internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job;
- (2) "interim next-step plan" means an annual next-step plan in which the student specifies post-high-school goals and sets forth the coursework that will allow the student to achieve those goals; and
- (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal written plan of studies developed by a student in a public school or other state-supported school or institution in consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or other school official charged with coursework planning for the student that includes one or more of the following:

(a) advanced placement or honors

courses;

(b) dual-credit courses offered in

bracketed material] = delete

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coo	peration	with	an	instit	ution	of	higher	edu	cation;	and
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				(c)	dista	ince	learni	ng o	courses	•

[K.] N. The secretary may establish a policy to provide for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code."

Section 22-13-1.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005, Section 9. Chapter 78, Section 1) is amended to read:

"22-13-1.4. HONORS OR SIMILAR CLASSES IN MATHEMATICS AND LANGUAGE ARTS.--Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, each school district shall offer at least one honors or similar academically rigorous class each in mathematics and language arts in each high school. Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, each school district shall also offer a program of courses for dual-credit, in cooperation with an institution of higher education, and a program of distance learning courses."

Section 10. A new section of the Public School Code is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL LITERACY INITIATIVE.--

School districts and charter schools may create comprehensive, coordinated middle and high school literacy initiatives to provide scientifically based literacy programs to improve the reading and writing proficiency of students in grades six through twelve.

The design of a middle and high school literacy .165761.2GR

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initiative shall be based upon scientific research that shows
that using the methods and materials proposed is effective in
improving reading proficiency beyond the primary grades and
shall include, at a minimum:
(1) instruction in nonfiction writing;
(2) ongoing teacher and school administrator
professional development equal to that which was validated in
the supporting research;

- (3) use of student assessment data to guide and individualize instruction; and
- a rigorous and thorough evaluation (4) component.
- A middle and high school literacy initiative shall also incorporate some or all of the following elements:
- direct, explicit comprehension (1) instruction;
- teacher teams, including language arts and (2) content area instructors who implement mutually reinforcing practices;
- strategies to encourage motivation and self-directed learning;
- (4) text-based collaborative learning by groups of students;
 - strategic tutoring; (5)
 - (6) diverse texts;

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(7) a technology component; a	(7)	a techr	nology	component;	and
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- (8) extended time for literacy.
- D. School districts and charter schools that meet department eligibility requirements may apply to the department for awards from the public school reading proficiency fund for support for their middle and high school literacy initiatives. Applications shall be in a form prescribed by the department."

Section 11. REPEAL.--Sections 22-12-6, 22-13-9 and 22-13-10 NMSA 1978 (being laws 1967, Chapter 16, Sections 174, 183 and 184) are repealed.

Section 12. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2007.

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