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HOUSE BILL 357

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR A GENERAL DIPLOMA TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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 2010, Chapter 25, Section 1 and by Laws 2010, Chapter 110, Section 1) 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

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, pre-apprenticeship  
25 programs or remediation programs that the college and workplace

1 readiness assessments indicate to be appropriate;

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

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

6 E. The secretary shall:

7 (1) establish specific accountability  
8 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school  
9 district staff to ensure that every student has the opportunity  
10 to develop a next-step plan;

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

14 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements  
15 of this section; and

16 (4) compile such information as is necessary  
17 to evaluate the success of next-step plans and report annually,  
18 by December 15, to the legislative education study committee  
19 and the governor.

20 F. Successful completion of a minimum of twenty-  
21 three units aligned to the state academic content and  
22 performance standards shall be required for graduation. These  
23 units shall be as follows:

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

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

3 (3) two units in science, one of which shall  
4 have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with  
5 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006  
6 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of  
7 which shall have a laboratory component;

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

11 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

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

25 G. For students entering the ninth grade beginning

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1 in the 2009-2010 school year, at least one of the units  
2 required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced  
3 placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in  
4 cooperation with an institution of higher education or a  
5 distance learning course.

6 H. The department shall establish a procedure for  
7 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified  
8 career technical education courses for certain graduation  
9 requirements.

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

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

19 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one  
20 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra  
21 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for  
22 the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit; and provided  
23 that a financial literacy course that meets state mathematics  
24 academic content and performance standards shall qualify as one  
25 of the four required mathematics units;

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1 (3) three units in science, two of which shall  
2 have a laboratory component;

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

7 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

11 (7) seven and one-half elective units that  
12 meet department content and performance standards. Student  
13 service learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial  
14 literacy shall be offered as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship  
15 programs may be offered as electives. Media literacy may be  
16 offered as an elective.

17 J. For students entering the eighth grade in the  
18 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is required  
19 prior to graduation. Health education may be required in  
20 either middle school or high school, as determined by the  
21 school district. Each school district shall submit to the  
22 department by the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year a  
23 health education implementation plan for the 2012-2013 and  
24 subsequent school years, including in which grade health  
25 education will be required and how the course aligns with

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1 department content and performance standards.

2 K. Final examinations shall be administered to all  
3 students in all classes offered for credit.

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

23 M. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a  
24 student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence if  
25 the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject

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1 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,  
2 social studies and science, including a section on the  
3 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New  
4 Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or assessments or  
5 a portfolio of standards-based indicators established by the  
6 department by rule. The standards-based assessments required  
7 in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may also serve as the assessment  
8 required for high school graduation. [~~If a student exits from  
9 the school system at the end of grade twelve without having  
10 satisfied the requirements of this subsection, the student  
11 shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the  
12 number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within  
13 five years after a student exits from the school system the  
14 student satisfies the requirement of this subsection, the  
15 student may receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence. Any  
16 student satisfying the requirements of this subsection and  
17 completing all other requirements within five years of entering  
18 ninth grade, including a final summer session if completed by  
19 August 1, may be counted by the school system in which the  
20 student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in  
21 which all requirements are satisfied.~~]

22 N. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year,  
23 successful completion of the requirements of the New Mexico  
24 general diploma are:

25 (1) twenty-four units, which shall be aligned

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1 with state academic content and performance standards, if  
2 standards have been adopted, as follows:

3 (a) four units in English, with major  
4 emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature, and one  
5 of which may be business English;

6 (b) four units in mathematics, which may  
7 include units in financial literacy and technical-career  
8 mathematics;

9 (c) three units in science, one of which  
10 shall have a laboratory component and one of which may be  
11 health education;

12 (d) 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 (e) one unit of physical education;  
17 provided that with the approval of the local school board,  
18 physical education may be satisfied by participation on an  
19 athletic team or an athletic sport or in marching band or other  
20 physical activity sponsored by the public school, school  
21 district or the New Mexico activities association;

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

25 (g) seven and one-half elective units

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1 that meet department academic content and performance  
2 standards. Student service learning shall be offered as an  
3 elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as either an  
4 elective or a required mathematics course. Pre-apprenticeship  
5 programs may be offered as electives. Media literacy may be  
6 offered as an elective; and

7 (2) demonstration of competence in the subject  
8 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,  
9 social studies and science, including a section on the United  
10 States constitution and the constitution of New Mexico, based  
11 on the standards-based assessments required by Section 22-2C-4  
12 NMSA 1978, a career-ready assessment or a portfolio of  
13 standards-based indicators established by rule of the  
14 department.

15 O. A student satisfying the requirements for a New  
16 Mexico general diploma or a New Mexico diploma of excellence  
17 within five years of entering ninth grade, including a final  
18 summer session if completed by August 1, may be counted as a  
19 high school graduate by the school district in which the  
20 student is enrolled for the year in which all requirements are  
21 satisfied. If a student exits from the school system at the  
22 end of grade twelve without having satisfied the requirements  
23 for a New Mexico general diploma or a New Mexico diploma of  
24 excellence, the student shall receive an appropriate state  
25 certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the

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1 grade completed. If within five years after a student exits  
2 from the school system the student satisfies the requirements  
3 for a New Mexico general diploma or a New Mexico diploma of  
4 excellence, the student shall receive the diploma for which the  
5 student qualifies.

6 [N.] P. As used in this section:

7 (1) "final next-step plan" means a next-step  
8 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to  
9 commit in the near future to a four-year college or university,  
10 a two-year college, a trade or vocational program, an  
11 internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job;

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

16 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal  
17 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public  
18 school or other state-supported school or institution in  
19 consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or  
20 other school official charged with coursework planning for the  
21 student that includes one or more of the following:

22 (a) advanced placement or honors  
23 courses;

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

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- (c) distance learning courses;
- (d) career-technical courses; and
- (e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

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

**SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.**--It is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.