HOUSE BILL 357

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

INTRODUCED BY

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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
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, including
honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,
distance learning courses, career clusters, pre-apprenticeship
programs or remediation programs that the college and workplace
readiness assessments indicate to be appropriate;

(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;

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

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

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

(1) four units in English, with major emphasis
on grammar and literature;
(2) three units in mathematics, at least one of which is equivalent to the algebra 1 level or higher;

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

(6) one unit in communication skills or business education, with a major emphasis on writing and speaking and that may include a language 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. Financial literacy shall be offered as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as electives. Media literacy may 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.

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.

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

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

(2) four units in mathematics, of which one
shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra
2, unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for
the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit; and provided
that a financial literacy course that meets state mathematics
academic content and performance standards shall qualify as one
of the four required mathematics units;
(3) three units in science, two of which shall have a laboratory component;

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

(5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

J. For students entering the eighth grade in the 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is required prior to graduation. Health education may be required in either middle school or high school, as determined by the school district. Each school district shall submit to the department by the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year a health education implementation plan for the 2012-2013 and subsequent school years, including in which grade health education will be required and how the course aligns with .196316.2
department content and performance standards.

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

L. Until July 1, 2010, a student 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
Mexico. If a student exits from the school system at the end
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. Any student passing the state graduation examination
and completing all other requirements within five years of
entering ninth grade, including a final summer session if
completed by August 1, may be counted by the school system in
which the student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the
year in which completion and examination occur.

M. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a
student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence 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. The standards-based assessments required in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may also serve as the assessment required for high school graduation. [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 New Mexico diploma of excellence. Any student satisfying the requirements of this subsection and completing all other requirements within five years of entering ninth grade, including a final summer session if completed by August 1, may be counted by the school system in which the student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in which all requirements are satisfied.]

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

(1) twenty-four units, which shall be aligned
with state academic content and performance standards, if
standards have been adopted, as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(g) seven and one-half elective units
that meet department academic content and performance standards. Student service learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as either an elective or a required mathematics course. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective; and

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

O. A student satisfying the requirements for a New Mexico general diploma or a New Mexico diploma of excellence within five years of entering ninth grade, including a final summer session if completed by August 1, may be counted as a high school graduate by the school district in which the student is enrolled for the year in which all requirements are satisfied. If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade twelve without having satisfied the requirements for a New Mexico general diploma or a New Mexico diploma of excellence, 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 requirements for a New Mexico general diploma or a New Mexico diploma of excellence, the student shall receive the diploma for which the student qualifies.

[N-P] P. 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 cooperation with an institution of higher education;
(c) distance learning courses;
(d) career-technical courses; and
(e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

[Θ-] 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.