

1 HOUSE BILL 303

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Matthew McQueen

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CHANGING GRADUATION UNITS; REDUCING
12 THE MATHEMATICS UNITS; INCREASING ELECTIVE UNITS; MAKING LIFE
13 SKILLS, WHICH INCLUDES A MAJOR EMPHASIS ON MEDIA LITERACY,
14 FINANCIAL LITERACY AND WORKPLACE READINESS, A MANDATORY COURSE
15 FOR GRADUATION.

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

18 SECTION 1. Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
19 Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 2016, Chapter 17,
20 Section 2 and by Laws 2016, Chapter 18, Section 2) is amended
21 to read:

22 "22-13-1.1. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.--

23 A. At the end of grades eight through eleven, each
24 student shall prepare an interim next-step plan that sets forth
25 the coursework for the grades remaining until high school

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1 graduation. Each year's plan shall explain any differences
2 from previous interim next-step plans, shall be filed with the
3 principal of the student's high school and shall be signed by
4 the student, the student's parent and the student's guidance
5 counselor or other school official charged with coursework
6 planning for the student.

7 B. Each student must complete a final next-step
8 plan during the senior year and prior to graduation. The plan
9 shall be filed with the principal of the student's high school
10 and shall be signed by the student, the student's parent and
11 the student's guidance counselor or other school official
12 charged with coursework planning for the student.

13 C. An individualized education program that meets
14 the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section and
15 that meets all applicable transition and procedural
16 requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
17 Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy the
18 next-step plan requirements of this section for that student.

19 D. A local school board shall ensure that each high
20 school student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan
21 based on reports of college and workplace readiness
22 assessments, as available, and other factors and is reasonably
23 informed about:

24 (1) curricular and course options, including
25 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,

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1 distance learning courses, career clusters and career pathways,
2 pre-apprenticeship programs or remediation programs that the
3 college and workplace readiness assessments indicate to be
4 appropriate;

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

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

9 E. The secretary shall:

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

14 (2) promulgate rules for accredited private
15 schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the
16 provisions of this section;

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

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

23 F. Once a student has entered ninth grade, the
24 graduation requirements shall not be changed for that student
25 from the requirements specified in the law at the time the

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1 student entered ninth grade.

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

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

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

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

15 (4) three units in social science, which shall
16 include United States history and geography, world history and
17 geography and government and economics;

18 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

25 (8) nine elective units and seven and one-half

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1 elective units for students entering the ninth grade in the
2 2005-2006 school year that meet department content and
3 performance standards. Student service learning shall be
4 offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as
5 an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as
6 electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective.

7 H. For students entering the ninth grade beginning
8 in the 2009-2010 school year, at least one of the units
9 required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced
10 placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in
11 cooperation with an institution of higher education or a
12 distance learning course.

13 I. The department shall establish a procedure for
14 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified
15 career technical education courses for certain graduation
16 requirements, and districts may choose to allow students who
17 successfully complete an industry-recognized credential,
18 certificate or degree to receive additional weight in the
19 calculation of the student's grade point average.

20 J. Successful completion of the requirements of the
21 New Mexico diploma of excellence shall be required for
22 graduation for students entering the ninth grade beginning in
23 the 2009-2010 school year. Successful completion of a minimum
24 of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic content and
25 performance standards shall be required to earn a New Mexico

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1 diploma of excellence. These units shall be as follows:

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

4 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one
5 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra
6 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for
7 the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit; and provided
8 that a financial literacy course that meets state mathematics
9 academic content and performance standards shall qualify as one
10 of the four required mathematics units;

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

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

17 (5) one unit in physical education, as
18 determined by each school district, which may include a
19 physical education program that meets state content and
20 performance standards or participation in marching band, junior
21 reserve officers' training corps or interscholastic sports
22 sanctioned by the New Mexico activities association or any
23 other co-curricular physical activity;

24 (6) one unit in one of the following: a
25 career cluster course, workplace readiness or a language other

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1 than English; and

2 (7) seven and one-half elective units that
3 meet department content and performance standards. Career and
4 technical education courses shall be offered as [~~an elective~~]
5 electives. Student service learning shall be offered as an
6 elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as an elective.
7 Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as electives. Media
8 literacy may be offered as an elective.

9 K. Successful completion of the requirements of the
10 New Mexico diploma of excellence shall be required for
11 graduation for students entering the ninth grade beginning in
12 the 2017-2018 school year. Successful completion of a minimum
13 of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic content and
14 performance standards shall be required to earn a New Mexico
15 diploma of excellence. These units shall be as follows:

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

18 (2) three units in mathematics, which shall
19 include algebra and geometry;

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

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

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1 (5) one unit in physical education, as
2 determined by each school district, which may include a
3 physical education program that meets state content and
4 performance standards or participation in marching band, junior
5 reserve officers' training corps or interscholastic sports
6 sanctioned by the New Mexico activities association or any
7 other co-curricular physical activity;

8 (6) one unit in life skills, with a major
9 emphasis on financial literacy, media literacy and workplace
10 readiness; and

11 (7) eight and one-half elective units that
12 meet department content and performance standards. Career and
13 technical education courses shall be offered as electives.
14 Student service learning shall be offered as an elective.
15 Career cluster courses shall be offered as electives.
16 Languages other than English shall be offered as electives.
17 Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as electives.

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

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1 education will be required and how the course aligns with
2 department content and performance standards. Health education
3 courses shall include:

4 (1) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault
5 awareness and prevention training that meets department
6 standards developed in consultation with the federal centers
7 for disease control and prevention that are based on evidence-
8 based methods that have proven to be effective; and

9 (2) lifesaving skills training that follows
10 nationally recognized guidelines for hands-on psychomotor
11 skills cardiopulmonary resuscitation training. Students shall
12 be trained to recognize the signs of a heart attack, use an
13 automated external defibrillator and perform the Heimlich
14 maneuver for choking victims. The secretary shall promulgate
15 rules to provide for the:

16 (a) use of the following instructors for
17 the training provided pursuant to this paragraph: 1) school
18 nurses, health teachers and athletic department personnel as
19 instructors; and 2) any qualified persons volunteering to
20 provide training at no cost to the school district that the
21 school district determines to be eligible to offer instruction
22 pursuant to this paragraph; and

23 (b) approval of training and
24 instructional materials related to the training established
25 pursuant to this paragraph in both English and Spanish.

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1 ~~[H-]~~ M. Final examinations shall be administered to
2 all students in all classes offered for credit.

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

23 ~~[N-]~~ O. 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 requirements 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 [Ø-] P. As used in this section:

23 (1) "career and technical education",
24 sometimes referred to as "vocational education", means
25 organized programs offering a sequence of courses, including

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1 technical education and applied technology education, that are
2 directly related to the preparation of individuals for paid or
3 unpaid employment in current or emerging occupations requiring
4 an industry-recognized credential, certificate or degree;

5 (2) "career and technical education course"
6 means a course with content that provides technical knowledge,
7 skills and competency-based applied learning and that aligns
8 with educational standards and expectations as defined in rule;

9 (3) "career cluster" means a grouping of
10 occupations in industry sectors based on recognized
11 commonalities that provide an organizing tool for developing
12 instruction within the educational system;

13 (4) "career pathways" means a sub-grouping
14 used as an organizing tool for curriculum design and
15 instruction of occupations and career specialities that share a
16 set of common knowledge and skills for career success;

17 (5) "final next-step plan" means a next-step
18 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to
19 commit in the near future to a four-year college or university,
20 a two-year college, a trade or vocational program, an
21 internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job;

22 (6) "interim next-step plan" means an annual
23 next-step plan in which the student specifies post-high-school
24 goals and sets forth the coursework that will allow the student
25 to achieve those goals; and

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1 (7) "next-step plan" means an annual personal
2 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public
3 school or other state-supported school or institution in
4 consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or
5 other school official charged with coursework planning for the
6 student that includes one or more of the following:

7 (a) advanced placement or honors
8 courses;

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

11 (c) distance learning courses;

12 (d) career-technical courses; and

13 (e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

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