

HOUSE BILL 244

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; PROVIDING THAT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSES OFFERED BY HIGH SCHOOLS SHALL BE A PART OF A SERIES OF AT LEAST THREE COURSES THAT ARE PART OF A SINGLE PROGRAM OF STUDY THAT IS RELEVANT TO A CAREER FIELD OR INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION.

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) 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

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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 and career pathways,
25 pre-apprenticeship programs or remediation programs that the

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1 college and workplace readiness assessments indicate to be
2 appropriate;

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

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

7 E. The secretary shall:

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

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

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

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

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

25 ~~[G. Successful completion of a minimum of twenty-~~

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1 ~~three units aligned to the state academic content and~~
2 ~~performance standards shall be required for graduation. These~~
3 ~~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, at least one~~
7 ~~of which is equivalent to the algebra 1 level or higher;~~

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

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

16 ~~(5) one unit in physical education;~~

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

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

23 ~~(8) nine elective units and seven and one-half~~
24 ~~elective units for students entering the ninth grade in the~~
25 ~~2005-2006 school year that meet department content and~~

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1 ~~performance standards. Student service learning shall be~~
2 ~~offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as~~
3 ~~an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as~~
4 ~~electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective.~~

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

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

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

- 25 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis

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1 on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature; provided that
2 department-approved work-based training or career and technical
3 education courses that meet state English academic content and
4 performance standards shall qualify as one of the four required
5 English units;

6 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one
7 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra
8 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for
9 the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit; and provided
10 that a financial literacy course or department-approved work-
11 based training or career and technical education course that
12 meets state mathematics academic content and performance
13 standards shall qualify as one of the four required mathematics
14 units;

15 (3) three units in science, two of which shall
16 have a laboratory component; provided that department-approved
17 work-based training or career and technical education courses
18 that meet state science academic content and performance
19 standards shall qualify as one of the three required science
20 units;

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

25 (5) one unit in physical education, as

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

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

10 (7) seven and one-half elective units that
11 meet department content and performance standards. Career and
12 technical education courses shall be offered as an elective;
13 provided that every career and technical education course
14 offered shall be a part of a series of at least three courses
15 that are a part of a single program of study that is relevant
16 to a career field or industry certification. Student service
17 learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial literacy
18 shall be offered as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs
19 may be offered as electives. Media literacy may be offered as
20 an elective.

21 [~~K.~~] J. For students entering the eighth grade in
22 the 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is
23 required prior to graduation. Health education may be required
24 in either middle school or high school, as determined by the
25 school district. Each school district shall submit to the

1 department by the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year a
2 health education implementation plan for the 2012-2013 and
3 subsequent school years, including in which grade health
4 education will be required and how the course aligns with
5 department content and performance standards. Health education
6 courses shall include:

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

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

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

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1 (b) approval of training and
2 instructional materials related to the training established
3 pursuant to this paragraph in both English and Spanish.

4 [~~H.~~] K. For students entering the ninth grade in
5 the 2017-2018 school year and subsequent school years:

6 (1) one of the units in mathematics required
7 by Paragraph (2) of Subsection [~~J.~~] I. of this section may
8 comprise a computer science course if taken after the student
9 demonstrates competence in mathematics and if the course is not
10 used to satisfy any part of the requirement set forth in
11 Paragraph (3) of that subsection; and

12 (2) one of the units in science required by
13 Paragraph (3) of Subsection [~~J.~~] I. of this section may comprise
14 a computer science course if taken after the student
15 demonstrates competence in science and if the course is not
16 used to satisfy any part of the requirement set forth in
17 Paragraph (2) of that subsection.

18 [~~M.~~] L. Final examinations shall be administered to
19 all students in all classes offered for credit.

20 [~~N.~~] M. Until July 1, 2010, a student who has not
21 passed a state graduation examination in the subject areas of
22 reading, English, mathematics, writing, science and social
23 science shall not receive a high school diploma. The state
24 graduation examination on social science shall include a
25 section on the constitution of the United States and the

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1 constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the school
2 system at the end of grade twelve without having passed a state
3 graduation examination, the student shall receive an
4 appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits
5 earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a
6 student exits from the school system the student takes and
7 passes the state graduation examination, the student may
8 receive a high school diploma. Any student passing the state
9 graduation examination and completing all other requirements
10 within five years of entering ninth grade, including a final
11 summer session if completed by August 1, may be counted by the
12 school system in which the student is enrolled as a high school
13 graduate for the year in which completion and examination
14 occur.

15 [0.] N. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a
16 student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence if
17 the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject
18 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,
19 social studies and science, including a section on the
20 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New
21 Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or assessments or
22 a portfolio of standards-based indicators established by the
23 department by rule. The standards-based assessments required
24 in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may also serve as the assessment
25 required for high school graduation. If a student exits from

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1 the school system at the end of grade twelve without having
2 satisfied the requirements of this subsection, the student
3 shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the
4 number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within
5 five years after a student exits from the school system the
6 student satisfies the requirements of this subsection, the
7 student may receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence. Any
8 student satisfying the requirements of this subsection and
9 completing all other requirements within five years of entering
10 ninth grade, including a final summer session if completed by
11 August 1, may be counted by the school system in which the
12 student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in
13 which all requirements are satisfied.

14 [P-] O. As used in this section:

15 (1) "career and technical education",
16 sometimes referred to as "vocational education", means
17 organized programs offering a sequence of courses, including
18 technical education and applied technology education, that are
19 directly related to the preparation of individuals for paid or
20 unpaid employment in current or emerging occupations requiring
21 an industry-recognized credential, certificate or degree;

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (a) advanced placement or honors
25 courses;

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- (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.

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

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2024.