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SENATE BILL 149

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Mark Boitano

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; CHANGING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

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

Section 1. Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 2001, Chapter 257, Section 1 and by Laws 2001, Chapter 276, Section 1) is amended to read:

"22-2-8.4. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. --

A. At the end of the eighth grade or during the ninth grade, each student shall prepare an individual program of study for grades nine through twelve. The program of study shall be signed by a student's parent or guardian.

B. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the 1986-87 school year, successful completion of a minimum of twenty-three units shall be required for graduation. These

underscored material = new
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1 units shall be as follows:

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

4 (2) three units in mathematics, one of which
5 shall be in algebra or a higher level mathematics course;

6 (3) [~~two~~] three units in science, one of which
7 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 fitness;~~

12 ~~(6)]~~ (5) one unit in communication skills,
13 with major emphasis on writing and speaking, which may include
14 a language other than English; and

15 [~~(7)]~~ (6) nine elective units. Only the
16 following elective units shall be counted toward meeting the
17 requirements for graduation: fine arts, i. e., music, band,
18 chorus and art; practical arts; physical education; languages
19 other than English; speech; drama; vocational education;
20 mathematics; science; English; [~~R. O. T. C.~~] reserve officers'
21 training corps; social science; computer science; health
22 education; American sign language; service learning; and other
23 electives approved by the state board.

24 With the approval of the local school board, participation
25 on an athletic team or in an athletic sport during the school

underscored material = new
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1 day may count toward fulfillment of ~~the~~ a physical education
2 ~~required~~ elective unit.

3 C. Final examinations shall be administered to all
4 students in all classes offered for credit.

5 D. ~~No~~ A student shall not receive a high school
6 diploma who has not passed a state graduation examination in
7 the subject areas of reading, English, math, writing, science
8 and social science. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year,
9 the state graduation examinations on social science shall
10 include a section on the constitution of the United States and
11 the constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the
12 school system at the end of grade twelve without having passed
13 a state graduation examination, he shall receive an appropriate
14 state certificate indicating the number of credits earned and
15 the grade completed. If within five years after a student
16 exits from the school system he takes and passes the state
17 graduation examination, he may receive a high school diploma.

18 E. The state board may establish a policy to
19 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify
20 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code."