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SENATE BILL 647

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Mark Boitano

AN ACT

**RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; USING THE REQUIRED ELEVENTH GRADE
STANDARDS-BASED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE TESTS FOR THE STATE
GRADUATION EXAMINATION; ALLOWING THREE ATTEMPTS TO PASS THE
TESTS.**

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
principal of the student's high school and shall be signed by**

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1 the student, the student's parent [~~or guardian~~] and the
2 student's guidance counselor or other school official charged
3 with coursework planning for the student.

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

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

16 D. A local school board shall ensure that each high
17 school student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan
18 and is reasonably informed about:

- 19 (1) curricular and course options;
20 (2) opportunities available that lead to
21 different post-high-school options; and
22 (3) alternative opportunities available if the
23 student does not finish a planned curriculum.

24 E. The secretary [~~of public education~~] shall:

- 25 (1) establish specific accountability

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1 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school
2 district staff to ensure that every student has the opportunity
3 to develop a next-step plan;

4 (2) promulgate rules for accredited private
5 schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the
6 provisions of this section;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 (4) three units in social science, which shall
2 include United States history and geography, world history and
3 geography and government and economics;

4 (5) one unit in physical education [~~or other~~
5 ~~physical activity~~];

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

10 (7) nine elective units and eight elective
11 units for students entering the ninth grade in the 2005-2006
12 school year that meet [~~state board~~] department content and
13 performance standards. Student service learning shall be
14 offered as an elective.

15 G. The department shall establish a procedure for
16 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified
17 career technical education courses for certain graduation
18 requirements.

19 H. Final examinations shall be administered to all
20 students in all classes offered for credit.

21 I. A student shall not receive a high school
22 diploma who has not passed a state graduation examination in
23 the subject areas of reading, English, [~~math~~] mathematics,
24 writing, science and social science. The state graduation
25 examination on social science shall include a section on the

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1 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New
2 Mexico. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in
3 the 2005-2006 school year, a student shall not receive a high
4 school diploma who has not passed the eleventh grade standards-
5 based academic performance tests required by Section 22-2C-4
6 NMSA 1978. The social science test shall include a section on
7 the United States constitution and the constitution of New
8 Mexico. A student who fails to pass the eleventh grade
9 standards-based academic performance test in a particular
10 subject may be given two more opportunities in the twelfth
11 grade to pass the test. If a student exits from the school
12 system at the end of grade twelve without having passed [a] the
13 state graduation examination [he] or the eleventh grade
14 standards-based academic performance tests, the student shall
15 receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the number
16 of credits earned and the grade completed. If within five
17 years after a student exits from the school system, [he] the
18 student takes and passes the state graduation examination [he],
19 or eleventh grade tests, as applicable, the student may receive
20 a high school diploma.

21 J. As used in this section:

22 (1) "final next-step plan" means a next-step
23 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to
24 commit in the near future to a four-year college or university,
25 a two-year college, a trade or vocational program, an

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1 internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job;

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

6 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal
7 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public
8 school or other state-supported school or institution in
9 consultation with the student's parent [~~or guardian~~] and school
10 counselor or other school official charged with coursework
11 planning for the student.

12 K. The secretary [~~of public education~~] may
13 establish a policy to provide for administrative
14 interpretations to clarify curricular and testing provisions of
15 the Public School Code. "