

SENATE FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 647

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

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; USING THE REQUIRED ELEVENTH GRADE
STANDARDS-BASED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE TESTS FOR THE STATE
GRADUATION EXAMINATION IN THE 2009-2010 AND SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL
YEARS.

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; and
24 (4) the requirements for receiving a high
25 school diploma.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of
2 which shall have a laboratory component;

3 (4) three units in social [~~science~~] studies,
4 which shall include United States history and geography, world
5 history and geography and government and economics;

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

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

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

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

21 H. Final examinations shall be administered to all
22 students in all classes offered for credit.

23 I. A student shall not receive a high school
24 diploma who has not passed a state graduation examination in
25 the subject areas of reading, English, [~~math~~] mathematics,

1 writing, science and social science. The state graduation
 2 examination on social [~~science~~] studies shall include a section
 3 on the constitution of the United States and the constitution
 4 of New Mexico. If a student exits from the school system at
 5 the end of grade twelve without having passed [a] the state
 6 graduation examination, [~~he~~] the student shall receive an
 7 appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits
 8 earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a
 9 student exits from the school system, [~~he~~] the student takes
 10 and passes the state graduation examination, [~~he~~] the student
 11 may receive a high school diploma.

12 J. In the 2009-2010 and subsequent school years,
 13 school districts shall use the eleventh grade standards-based
 14 academic performance test required by Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978
 15 as the state graduation examination.

16 [~~J.~~] K. As used in this section:

17 (1) "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 (2) "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 (3) "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 [~~or guardian~~] and school
5 counselor or other school official charged with coursework
6 planning for the student.

7 [~~K.~~] L. The secretary [~~of public education~~] may
8 establish a policy to provide for administrative
9 interpretations to clarify curricular and testing provisions of
10 the Public School Code. "

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