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HOUSE BILL 1205

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio "Moe" Maestas

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING THAT FINANCIAL LITERACY  
BE OFFERED AS AN ELECTIVE; RECONCILING MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS TO  
THE SAME SECTION OF LAW IN LAWS 2005

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 by Laws 2005, Chapter 314,  
Section 1 and by Laws 2005, Chapter 315, Section 10) 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 and is reasonably informed about:

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

25 E. The secretary shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 which shall have a laboratory component;

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

5 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

12 (8) nine elective units and seven and one-half  
13 elective units for students entering the ninth grade in the  
14 2005-2006 school year that meet department content and  
15 performance standards. Student service learning shall be  
16 offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as  
17 an elective.

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

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

24 I. A student [~~shall not receive a high school~~  
25 ~~diploma~~] who has not passed a state graduation examination in

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1 the subject areas of reading, English, mathematics, writing,  
2 science and social science shall not receive a high school  
3 diploma. The state graduation examination on social science  
4 shall include a section on the constitution of the United  
5 States and the constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits  
6 from the school system at the end of grade twelve without  
7 having passed a state graduation examination, the student shall  
8 receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the number  
9 of credits earned and the grade completed. If within five  
10 years after a student exits from the school system the student  
11 takes and passes the state graduation examination, the student  
12 may receive a high school diploma.

13 J. As used in this section:

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

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

23 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal  
24 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public  
25 school or other state-supported school or institution in

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1 consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or  
2 other school official charged with coursework planning for the  
3 student.

4 K. The secretary may establish a policy to provide  
5 for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and  
6 testing provisions of the Public School Code."

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