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HOUSE BILL 53

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

INTRODUCED BY

Jack E. Thomas

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ALLOWING FINANCIAL LITERACY THAT MEETS STATE STANDARDS TO QUALIFY FOR ONE OF THE FOUR REQUIRED MATHEMATICS UNITS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING NINTH GRADE IN 2009-2010; RECONCILING MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS TO THE SAME SECTION OF LAW IN LAWS 2009.

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 2009, Chapter 256, Section 1 and by Laws 2009, Chapter 267, Section 2 and also by Laws 2009, Chapter 268, Section 1) 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

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1 graduation. Each year's plan shall explain any differences  
2 from previous interim next-step plans, shall be filed with the  
3 principal of the student's high school and shall be signed by  
4 the student, the student's parent and the student's guidance  
5 counselor or other school official charged with coursework  
6 planning for the student.

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

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

19 D. A local school board shall ensure that each high  
20 school student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan  
21 based on reports of college and workplace readiness  
22 assessments, as available, and other factors and is reasonably  
23 informed about:

24 (1) curricular and course options, including  
25 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,

1 distance learning courses, career clusters, pre-apprenticeship  
2 programs or remediation programs that the college and workplace  
3 readiness assessments indicate to be appropriate;

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

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

8 E. The secretary shall:

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

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

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

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

22 F. Successful completion of a minimum of  
23 twenty-three units aligned to the state academic content and  
24 performance standards shall be required for graduation. These  
25 units shall be as follows:

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

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

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

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

13 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

20 (8) nine elective units and seven and  
21 one-half elective units for students entering the ninth grade  
22 in the 2005-2006 school year that meet department content and  
23 performance standards. Student service learning shall be  
24 offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as  
25 an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as

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1 electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective.

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

8 H. The department shall establish a procedure for  
9 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified  
10 career technical education courses for certain graduation  
11 requirements.

12 I. Successful completion of the requirements of the  
13 New Mexico diploma of excellence shall be required for  
14 graduation for students entering the ninth grade beginning in  
15 the 2009-2010 school year. Successful completion of a minimum  
16 of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic content and  
17 performance standards shall be required to earn a New Mexico  
18 diploma of excellence. These units shall be as follows:

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

21 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one  
22 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra  
23 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for  
24 the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit; and provided  
25 that a financial literacy course that meets state mathematics

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1 academic content and performance standards may qualify as one  
2 of the four required mathematics units;

3 (3) three units in science, two of which shall  
4 have a laboratory component;

5 (4) three and one-half units in social  
6 science, which shall include United States history and  
7 geography, world history and geography, ~~and~~ government and  
8 economics and one-half unit of New Mexico history;

9 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

13 (7) seven and one-half elective units that  
14 meet department content and performance standards. Student  
15 service learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial  
16 literacy shall be offered as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship  
17 programs may be offered as electives. Media literacy may be  
18 offered as an elective.

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

21 K. Until July 1, 2010, a student who has not passed  
22 a state graduation examination in the subject areas of reading,  
23 English, mathematics, writing, science and social science shall  
24 not receive a high school diploma. 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. If a student exits from the school system at the end  
3 of grade twelve without having passed a state graduation  
4 examination, the student shall receive an appropriate state  
5 certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the  
6 grade completed. If within five years after a student exits  
7 from the school system the student takes and passes the state  
8 graduation examination, the student may receive a high school  
9 diploma. Any student passing the state graduation examination  
10 and completing all other requirements within five years of  
11 entering ninth grade, including a final summer session if  
12 completed by August 1, may be counted by the school system in  
13 which the student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the  
14 year in which completion and examination occur.

15 L. 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 requirement 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 M. As used in this section:

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

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

24 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal  
25 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public



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1 school or other state-supported school or institution in  
2 consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or  
3 other school official charged with coursework planning for the  
4 student that includes one or more of the following:

5 (a) advanced placement or honors  
6 courses;

7 (b) dual-credit courses offered in  
8 cooperation with an institution of higher education;

9 (c) distance learning courses;

10 (d) career-technical courses; and

11 (e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

12 N. The secretary may establish a policy to provide  
13 for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and  
14 testing provisions of the Public School Code."

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