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HOUSE BILL 134

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ALLOWING SUMMER CIVICS COURSES TO
BE OFFERED AS ELECTIVES; RECONCILING MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS TO THE
SAME SECTION OF LAW IN LAWS 2010.

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 2010, Chapter 25,
Section 1 and by Laws 2010, Chapter 110, 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
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 based on reports of college and workplace readiness
20 assessments, as available, and other factors and is reasonably
21 informed about:

22 (1) curricular and course options, including
23 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,
24 distance learning courses, career clusters, pre-apprenticeship
25 programs or remediation programs that the college and workplace

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1 readiness assessments indicate to be appropriate;

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

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

6 E. The secretary shall:

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

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

14 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements
15 of this section; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 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 shall 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, 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. A summer civics course or program
19 approved by the department may be offered as an elective.

20 J. For students entering the eighth grade in the
21 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is required
22 prior to graduation. Health education may be required in
23 either middle school or high school, as determined by the
24 school district. Each school district shall submit to the
25 department by the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year a

1 health education implementation plan for the 2012-2013 and
2 subsequent school years, including in which grade health
3 education will be required and how the course aligns with
4 department content and performance standards.

5 K. Final examinations shall be administered to all
6 students in all classes offered for credit.

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

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1 M. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a
2 student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence if
3 the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject
4 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,
5 social studies and science, including a section on the
6 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New
7 Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or assessments or
8 a portfolio of standards-based indicators established by the
9 department by rule. The standards-based assessments required
10 in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may also serve as the assessment
11 required for high school graduation. If a student exits from
12 the school system at the end of grade twelve without having
13 satisfied the requirements of this subsection, the student
14 shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the
15 number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within
16 five years after a student exits from the school system the
17 student satisfies the requirement of this subsection, the
18 student may receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence. Any
19 student satisfying the requirements of this subsection and
20 completing all other requirements within five years of entering
21 ninth grade, including a final summer session if completed by
22 August 1, may be counted by the school system in which the
23 student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in
24 which all requirements are satisfied.

25 N. As used in this section:

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

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

10 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal
11 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public
12 school or other state-supported school or institution in
13 consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or
14 other school official charged with coursework planning for the
15 student that includes one or more of the following:

16 (a) advanced placement or honors
17 courses;

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

20 (c) distance learning courses;

21 (d) career-technical courses; and

22 (e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

23 0. The secretary may establish a policy to provide
24 for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and
25 testing provisions of the Public School Code."

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