

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ALLOWING SUMMER CIVICS COURSES TO
BE OFFERED AS ELECTIVES.

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 principal of the student's high school and
shall be signed by the student, the student's parent and the
student's guidance counselor or other school official charged
with coursework planning for the student.

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

1 C. An individualized education program that meets
2 the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section and
3 that meets all applicable transition and procedural
4 requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
5 Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy
6 the next-step plan requirements of this section for that
7 student.

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

13 (1) curricular and course options, including
14 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,
15 distance learning courses, career clusters,
16 pre-apprenticeship programs or remediation programs that the
17 college and workplace readiness assessments indicate to be
18 appropriate;

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

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

23 E. The secretary shall:

24 (1) establish specific accountability
25 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school

1 district staff to ensure that every student has the
2 opportunity to develop a next-step plan;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (4) three units in social science, which

1 shall include United States history and geography, world
2 history and geography and government and economics;

3 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

10 (8) nine elective units and seven and
11 one-half elective units for students entering the ninth grade
12 in the 2005-2006 school year that meet department content and
13 performance standards. Student service learning shall be
14 offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered
15 as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered
16 as electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective.
17 A summer civics course or program may be offered as an
18 elective.

19 G. For students entering the ninth grade beginning
20 in the 2009-2010 school year, at least one of the units
21 required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced
22 placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in
23 cooperation with an institution of higher education or a
24 distance learning course.

25 H. The department shall establish a procedure for

1 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified
2 career technical education courses for certain graduation
3 requirements.

4 I. Successful completion of the requirements of
5 the New Mexico diploma of excellence shall be required for
6 graduation for students entering the ninth grade beginning in
7 the 2009-2010 school year. Successful completion of a
8 minimum of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic
9 content and performance standards shall be required to earn a
10 New Mexico diploma of excellence. These units shall be as
11 follows:

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

14 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one
15 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of
16 algebra 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed
17 permission for the student to complete a lesser mathematics
18 unit; and provided that a financial literacy course that
19 meets state mathematics academic content and performance
20 standards shall qualify as one of the four required
21 mathematics units;

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

24 (4) three and one-half units in social
25 science, which shall include United States history and

1 geography, world history and geography, government and
2 economics and one-half unit of New Mexico history;

3 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

7 (7) seven and one-half elective units that
8 meet department content and performance standards. Student
9 service learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial
10 literacy shall be offered as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship
11 programs may be offered as electives. Media literacy may be
12 offered as an elective. A summer civics course or program
13 may be offered as an elective.

14 J. For students entering the eighth grade in the
15 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is
16 required prior to graduation. Health education may be
17 required in either middle school or high school, as
18 determined by the school district. Each school district
19 shall submit to the department by the beginning of the
20 2011-2012 school year a health education implementation plan
21 for the 2012-2013 and subsequent school years, including in
22 which grade health education will be required and how the
23 course aligns with department content and performance
24 standards.

25 K. Final examinations shall be administered to all

1 students in all classes offered for credit.

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

22 M. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a
23 student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence
24 if the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject
25 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,

1 social studies and science, including a section on the
2 constitution of the United States and the constitution of
3 New Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or
4 assessments or a portfolio of standards-based indicators
5 established by the department by rule. The standards-based
6 assessments required in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may also
7 serve as the assessment required for high school graduation.
8 If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade
9 twelve without having satisfied the requirements of this
10 subsection, the student shall receive an appropriate state
11 certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the
12 grade completed. If within five years after a student exits
13 from the school system the student satisfies the requirement
14 of this subsection, the student may receive a New Mexico
15 diploma of excellence. Any student satisfying the
16 requirements of this subsection and completing all other
17 requirements within five years of entering ninth grade,
18 including a final summer session if completed by August 1,
19 may be counted by the school system in which the student is
20 enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in which all
21 requirements are satisfied.

22 N. As used in this section:

23 (1) "final next-step plan" means a next-step
24 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to
25 commit in the near future to a four-year college or

1 university, a two-year college, a trade or vocational
2 program, an internship or apprenticeship, military service or
3 a job;

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

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

15 (a) advanced placement or honors
16 courses;

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

19 (c) distance learning courses;

20 (d) career-technical courses; and

21 (e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

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