

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.

C. An individualized education program that meets  
the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section and  
that meets all applicable transition and procedural  
requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities  
Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy

1 the next-step plan requirements of this section for that  
2 student.

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

8 (1) curricular and course options, including  
9 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,  
10 distance learning courses, career clusters,  
11 pre-apprenticeship programs or remediation programs that the  
12 college and workplace readiness assessments indicate to be  
13 appropriate;

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

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

18 E. The secretary shall:

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

23 (2) promulgate rules for accredited private  
24 schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the  
25 provisions of this section;

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

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

1 committee and the governor.

2 F. Successful completion of a minimum of  
3 twenty-three units aligned to the state academic content and  
4 performance standards shall be required for graduation.  
5 These units shall be as follows:

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

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

10 (3) two units in science, one of which shall  
11 have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with  
12 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006  
13 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of  
14 which shall have a laboratory component;

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

18 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

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

1 as electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective.  
2 A summer civics course or program may be offered as an  
3 elective.

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

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

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

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

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

1 mathematics units;

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

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

8 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

19 J. For students entering the eighth grade in the  
20 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is  
21 required prior to graduation. Health education may be  
22 required in either middle school or high school, as  
23 determined by the school district. Each school district  
24 shall submit to the department by the beginning of the  
25 2011-2012 school year a health education implementation plan  
for the 2012-2013 and subsequent school years, including in  
which grade health education will be required and how the  
course aligns with department content and performance  
standards.

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,  
social studies and science, including a section on the  
constitution of the United States and the constitution of  
New Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or  
assessments or a portfolio of standards-based indicators  
established by the department by rule. The standards-based

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

16 N. 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  
20 university, a two-year college, a trade or vocational  
21 program, an internship or apprenticeship, military service or  
22 a job;

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

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

1 in consultation with the student's parent and school  
2 counselor or other school official charged with coursework  
3 planning for the student that includes one or more of the  
4 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 O. The secretary may establish a policy to provide  
13 for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and  
14 testing provisions of the Public School Code." \_\_\_\_\_