



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

49th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2010

CHAPTER 25

HOUSE BILL 53, as amended

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE JACK E. THOMAS AND REPRESENTATIVE MIMI STEWART AND
REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN H. RODEFER

REPRESENTATIVE RICK MIERA
REPRESENTATIVE JONI MARIE GUTIERREZ



FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION
STUDY COMMITTEE

Chapter 25

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 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

1 and shall be signed by the student, the student's parent and
2 the student's guidance counselor or other school official
3 charged with coursework planning for the student.

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

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

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

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

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

25 E. The secretary shall:

1 (1) establish specific accountability
2 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school
3 district staff to ensure that every student has the
4 opportunity 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
12 annually, by December 15, to the legislative education study
13 committee and the governor.

14 F. Successful completion of a minimum of
15 twenty-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
19 emphasis 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

1 which shall have a laboratory component;

2 (4) three units in social science, which
3 shall include United States history and geography, world
4 history and 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
13 one-half elective units for students entering the ninth grade
14 in the 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
17 as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as
18 electives. Media literacy may be offered as an 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 minimum
8 of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic content and
9 performance standards shall be required to earn a New Mexico
10 diploma of excellence. These units shall be as follows:

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

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

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

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

1 (5) one unit in physical education;

2 (6) one unit in one of the following:

3 a career cluster course, workplace readiness or a language
4 other than English; and

5 (7) seven and one-half elective units that
6 meet department content and performance standards. Student
7 service learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial
8 literacy shall be offered as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship
9 programs may be offered as electives. Media literacy may be
10 offered as an elective.

11 J. Final examinations shall be administered to all
12 students in all classes offered for credit.

13 K. Until July 1, 2010, a student who has not
14 passed a state graduation examination in the subject areas of
15 reading, English, mathematics, writing, science and social
16 science shall not receive a high school diploma. The state
17 graduation examination on social science shall include a
18 section on the constitution of the United States and the
19 constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the
20 school system at the end of grade twelve without having passed
21 a state graduation examination, the student shall receive an
22 appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits
23 earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a
24 student exits from the school system the student takes and
25 passes the state graduation examination, the student may

1 receive a high school diploma. Any student passing the state
2 graduation examination and completing all other requirements
3 within five years of entering ninth grade, including a final
4 summer session if completed by August 1, may be counted by the
5 school system in which the student is enrolled as a high
6 school graduate for the year in which completion and
7 examination occur.

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

1 of excellence. Any student satisfying the requirements of
2 this subsection and completing all other requirements within
3 five years of entering ninth grade, including a final summer
4 session if completed by August 1, may be counted by the school
5 system in which the student is enrolled as a high school
6 graduate for the year in which all requirements are satisfied.

7 M. As used in this section:

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

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

17 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual
18 personal written plan of studies developed by a student in a
19 public school or other state-supported school or institution
20 in consultation with the student's parent and school counselor
21 or other school official charged with coursework planning for
22 the student that includes one or more of the following:

23 (a) advanced placement or honors
24 courses;

25 (b) dual-credit courses offered in

Ben Lujan

BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Stephen R. Arias

STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Diane D. Denish

DIANE D. DENISH, PRESIDENT
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Lenore M. Naranjo

LENORE M. NARANJO, CHIEF CLERK
SENATE

Approved by me this 3rd day of March, 2010

Bill Richardson

BILL RICHARDSON, GOVERNOR
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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