



The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

51st Legislature, 1st Session

LAWS 2013

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE BILL 51

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Introduced by  
REPRESENTATIVE SHERYL WILLIAMS STAPLETON



**POCKET VETOED**

1 AN ACT

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

5  
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

7 SECTION 1. Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws  
8 1986, Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 2010, Chapter  
9 25, Section 1 and by Laws 2010, Chapter 110, Section 1) is  
10 amended to read:

11 "22-13-1.1. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.--

12 A. At the end of grades eight through eleven, each  
13 student shall prepare an interim next-step plan that sets  
14 forth the coursework for the grades remaining until high  
15 school graduation. Each year's plan shall explain any  
16 differences from previous interim next-step plans, shall be  
17 filed with the principal of the student's high school and  
18 shall be signed by the student, the student's parent and the  
19 student's guidance counselor or other school official charged  
20 with coursework planning for the student.

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

1 charged with coursework planning for the student.

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

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

14 (1) curricular and course options, including  
15 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,  
16 distance learning courses, career clusters, pre-apprenticeship  
17 programs or remediation programs that the college and  
18 workplace readiness assessments indicate to be 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 twenty-  
13 three units aligned to the state academic content and  
14 performance standards shall be required for graduation. These  
15 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 as  
16 electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective. A  
17 summer civics course or program may be offered as an elective.

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

24 H. The department shall establish a procedure for  
25 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified

1 career technical education courses for certain graduation  
2 requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

25 (5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

11                  J. For students entering the eighth grade in the  
12 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is  
13 required prior to graduation. Health education may be  
14 required in either middle school or high school, as determined  
15 by the school district. Each school district shall submit to  
16 the department by the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year a  
17 health education implementation plan for the 2012-2013 and  
18 subsequent school years, including in which grade health  
19 education will be required and how the course aligns with  
20 department content and performance standards.

21                  K. Final examinations shall be administered to all  
22 students in all classes offered for credit.

23                  L. Until July 1, 2010, a student who has not  
24 passed a state graduation examination in the subject areas of  
25 reading, English, mathematics, writing, science and social

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

18 M. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a  
19 student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence  
20 if the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject  
21 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,  
22 social studies and science, including a section on the  
23 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New  
24 Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or assessments  
25 or a portfolio of standards-based indicators established by



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

17 N. As used in this section:

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

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

1 student to achieve those goals; and

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

8 (a) advanced placement or honors  
9 courses;

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

12 (c) distance learning courses;

13 (d) career-technical courses; and

14 (e) pre-apprenticeship programs.

15 0. The secretary may establish a policy to provide  
16 for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and  
17 testing provisions of the Public School Code." \_\_\_\_\_

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S/ W. KEN MARTINEZ  
W. KEN MARTINEZ, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ STEPHEN R. ARIAS  
STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
JOHN A. SANCHEZ, PRESIDENT  
SENATE

S/ LENORE M. NARANJO  
LENORE M. NARANJO, CHIEF CLERK  
SENATE

Approved by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

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SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

5/13/13 10:11 AM