

- (1) reading and language arts skills, with an emphasis on writing and editing for at least one year and an emphasis on grammar and writing for at least one year;
- (2) mathematics;
- (3) language other than English;
- (4) communication skills;
- (5) science;
- (6) art;
- (7) music;
- (8) social studies;
- (9) New Mexico history;
- (10) United States history;
- (11) geography;
- (12) physical education; and
- (13) health education.

E. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, in eighth grade, algebra 1 shall be offered in regular classroom settings or through on-line courses or agreements with high schools.

F. In fourth through eighth grades, school districts shall offer electives that contribute to academic growth and skill development and provide career and technical education. In sixth through eighth grades, media literacy may be offered as an elective.

G. In ninth through twelfth grades, instruction that meets academic content and performance standards shall be provided in health education.

History: 1978 Comp., § 22-13-1, enacted by Laws 2003, ch. 153, § 57; 2005, ch. 315, § 9; 2007, ch. 307, § 7; 2007, ch. 308, § 7; 2009, ch. 267, § 1.

2007 amendments. — Laws 2007, ch. 307, § 7 and Laws 2007, ch. 308, § 7 enacted identical amendments to this section, effective July 1, 2007. The 2007 amendments

amend Subsection C to require that first, second and third grade classes provide instruction that meets content and performance standards in science and social studies and add Subsection E.

The 2009 amendment, effective June 19, 2009, in Subsection F, added the last sentence.

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

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

- (1) curricular and course options, including honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses, distance learning courses, career clusters or remediation programs that the college and workplace readiness assessments indicate to be appropriate;
- (2) opportunities available that lead to different post-high-school options; and
- (3) alternative opportunities available if the student does not finish a planned curriculum.

E. The secretary shall:

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

(2) promulgate rules for accredited private schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the 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 committee and the governor.

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

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

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

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

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

(5) one unit in physical education;

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

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

(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.

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

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

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

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

(2) four units in mathematics, of which one 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;

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

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

(5) one unit in physical education;

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

(7) seven and one-half elective units that meet department content and performance standards. Student service learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as an elective.

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

K. Until July 1, 2010, a student who has not passed a state graduation examination in the subject areas of reading, English, mathematics, writing, science and social science shall not receive a high school diploma. The state graduation examination on social science shall include a section on the constitution of the United States and the constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade twelve without having passed a state graduation examination, the student shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a student exits from the school system the student takes and passes the state graduation examination, the student may receive a high school diploma. Any student passing the state graduation examination and completing all other requirements within five years of entering ninth grade, including a

final summer session if completed by August 1, may be counted by the school system in which the student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in which completion and examination occur.

L. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence if the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject 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 assessments required in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may also serve as the assessment required for high school graduation. If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade twelve without having satisfied the requirements of this subsection, the student shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a student exits from the school system the student satisfies the requirement of this subsection, the student may receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence. Any student satisfying the requirements of this subsection and completing all other requirements within five years of entering ninth grade, including a final summer session if completed by August 1, may be counted by the school system in which the student is enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in which all requirements are satisfied.

M. As used in this section:

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

(2) "interim next-step plan" means an annual next-step plan in which the student specifies 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 in consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or other school official charged with coursework planning for the student that includes one or more of the following:

(a) advanced placement or honors courses;

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

(c) distance learning courses.

N. The secretary may establish a policy to provide for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code [22-1-1 NMSA 1978].

History: 1978 Comp., § 22-2-8.4, enacted by Laws 1986, ch. 33, § 5; 1987, ch. 320, § 2; 1988, ch. 105, § 2; 1989, ch. 220, § 1; 1990 (1st S.S.), ch. 3, § 3; 1993, ch. 68, § 3; 1993, ch. 92, § 1; 1993, ch. 226, § 7; 1993, ch. 230, § 1; 1995, ch. 174, § 1; 1995, ch. 180, § 1; 1997, ch. 234, § 2; 2001, ch. 257, § 1; 2001, ch. 276, § 1; **recompiled and amended as 1978 Comp., § 22-13-1.1 by Laws 2003, ch. 153, § 58; 2004, ch. 29, § 1; 2005, ch. 314, § 1; 2005, ch. 315, § 10; 2007, ch. 305, § 1; 2007, ch. 307, § 8; 2007, ch. 308, § 8; 2008, ch. 21, § 2; 2009, ch. 256, § 1; 2009, ch. 267, § 2; 2009, ch. 268, § 1.**

2007 amendments. — Laws 2007, ch. 305, § 1, Laws 2007, ch. 307, § 8 and Laws 2007, ch. 308, § 8 enacted amendments to this section. Laws 2007, ch. 305, § 1 required that financial literacy be offered as an elective. Laws 2007, ch. 307, § 8 and Laws 2007, ch. 308, § 8 enacted identical amendments to this section. Because Laws 2007, ch. 308 was signed after Laws 2007, ch. 305, § 1 and Laws 2007, ch. 307 were signed, this section is set out as amended by Laws 2007, ch. 308, § 8. *See* 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

Laws 2007, ch. 308, § 8 and Laws 2007, ch. 307, § 8, effective July 1, 2007, require school boards to ensure that students have an opportunity to develop next-step plans based on reports of college and workplace readiness assessments and are informed about honors or advance placement courses, career cluster or remediation programs that college and workplace readiness assessments indicate to be appropriate; add Subsections G, I and L; and require that a "next-step plan" include advanced placement or honors courses, dual-credit courses and distance learning courses.

Laws 2007, ch. 305, § 1 provides:

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

D. A local school board shall ensure that each high school student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan and is reasonably informed about:

(1) curricular and course options;

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

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

E. The secretary shall:

- (1) establish specific accountability standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school district staff to ensure that every student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan;
- (2) promulgate rules for accredited private schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the 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 committee and the governor.

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

- (1) four units in English, with major emphasis on grammar and literature;
- (2) three units in mathematics, at least one of which is equivalent to the algebra 1 level or higher;
- (3) two units in science, one of which shall have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of which shall have a laboratory component;
- (4) three units in social science, which shall include United States history and geography, world history and geography and government and economics;
- (5) one unit in physical education;
- (6) one unit in communication skills or business education, with a major emphasis on writing and speaking and that may include a language other than English;
- (7) one-half unit in New Mexico history for students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006 school year; and
- (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.

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

H. Final examinations shall be administered to all students in all classes offered for credit.

I. A student who has not passed a state graduation examination in the subject areas of reading, English, mathematics, writing, science and social science shall not receive a high school diploma. The state graduation examination on social

science shall include a section on the constitution of the United States and the constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade twelve without having passed a state graduation examination, the student shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a student exits from the school system the student takes and passes the state graduation examination, the student may receive a high school diploma.

J. As used in this section:

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

(2) "interim next-step plan" means an annual next-step plan in which the student specifies 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 in consultation with the student's parent and school counselor or other school official charged with coursework planning for the student.

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

The 2008 amendment, effective May 14, 2008, added financial literacy as an elective in Paragraph (7) of Subsection I and in Subsection L, provided that the standards-based assessment required by 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may serve as the assessment required for high school graduation.

2009 amendments. — Laws 2009, ch. 256, § 1, Laws 2009, ch. 267, § 2 and Laws 2009, ch. 268, § 1 amended 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978. The section is set out as amended by Laws 2009, ch. 268, § 1. *See* 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

Laws 2009, ch. 268, § 1, effective April 8, 2009, in Subsections K and L, added the last sentences.

Laws 2009, ch. 267, § 2, effective June 19, 2009, also amended the section as follows: Paragraph (8) of Subsection F, and Paragraph (7) of Subsection I added identical last sentences, "Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, media literacy shall be offered as an elective."

Laws 2009, ch. 256, § 1, effective June 19, 2009, also amended the section as follows: in Paragraph (1) of Subsection D, added "pre-apprenticeship programs"; in Paragraph (8) of Subsection F, and in Paragraph (7) of Subsection I, added identical last sentences, "Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as electives."; and added Subparagraphs (d) and (e) of Paragraph (3) of Subsection M, which read "(d) career-technical courses; and (e) pre-apprenticeship programs".

22-13-1.4. Honors or similar classes in mathematics and language arts; dual credit courses; languages other than English.

A. Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, each school district shall offer at least one honors or similar academically rigorous class each in mathematics and language arts in each high school.

B. Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, each school district shall also offer a program of courses for dual-credit, in cooperation with an institution of higher education, and a program of distance learning courses.

C. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, each school district shall offer at least two years of a language other than English in each high school.

History: Laws 2005, ch. 78, § 1; 2007, ch. 307, § 9; 2007, ch. 308, § 9.

2007 amendments. — Laws 2007, ch. 307, § 9 and Laws 2007, ch. 308, § 9 enacted identical amendments to this section. The 2007 amendments, effective July 1, 2007, add Subsections B and C.