



LFC Requester:	Liu / Helms
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**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BILL ANALYSIS
2023 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original ___ Amendment X
Correction ___ Substitute ___

Date Prepared: 02/24/23
Bill No: [HB126/aHF1#1](#)

Sponsor: Romero / Lane
Short Title: SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Agency Name and Code
Number: PED - 924
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24	FY25		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Floor Amendment: The House Floor amendment to House Bill 126 (HB126/aHF1#1) makes the following changes:

- requires Algebra II to be offered in high school;

- inserts “personal financial literacy” after “economics,” as part of the social science units;
- replaces “world language” to “a language other than English;”
- requires financial literacy, computer science, student service learning, career technical education (CTE), and a sequence of languages other than English to be offered as electives; and
- allows media literacy and pre-apprenticeship programs to be offered as electives.

Synopsis of Original Bill: House Bill 126 (HB126) would amend [graduation requirements](#) for students entering ninth grade in the 2024-2025 school year (SY25). The bill would require each school district and charter school to develop a community-specific “graduate profile.” The bill would enable school districts and charter schools to independently specify two units of the 22 units required for graduation and would reduce the total number of minimum units required for graduation from 24 to 22.

HB126 would articulate the purpose of the New Mexico diploma of excellence, i.e., “to demonstrate that a student is ready for success in post-secondary education, gainful employment and citizenship and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner.” It would add guidance for school districts and charter schools to include course offerings to prepare students for an expanded range of post-secondary and workforce opportunities and entrepreneurship. The bill would require aligning students’ individual next step plans with the graduate profile specific to their community. Each graduate profile would outline core academic competencies, from the local level perspective, and subjects that are key to graduates’ post-high school success.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB126/aHF1#1 does not include an appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Beginning with students entering ninth grade in SY25, HB126/aHF1#1 reduces graduation requirements from 24 to 22, of which each school district or charter school would determine two units at the local level. The bill provides for cases of student transfer between school districts and charter schools with differing requirements. The most substantive impact of this reduction would be on the required number of elective units, from 7.5 to 4 units.

HB126/aHF1#1 removes the current Algebra II graduation requirement, but requires that it is offered. This would make sure schools provide Algebra II for students who choose it as a step in preparation for additional advanced mathematics courses. New Mexico students typically enroll in Algebra II in 11th grade prior to the spring administration of the [SAT School Day](#) college placement exam that satisfies Rule 6.19.7.8 NMAC – [General Requirements for Demonstrations of Competency](#), which implements Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978, – [Assessment and Accountability](#). Other states similarly make Algebra II an optional course, e.g. [Oregon](#) and [Washington State](#). This allows for flexible pathways for students.

HB126/aHF1#1 requires school districts to provide electives in financial literacy, computer science, student service learning, career technical education (CTE), a sequence of languages other than English, media literacy, and pre-apprenticeship programs. This would assure that students have instructional options to choose from while considering the local graduate profile and their own Next Step Plan. Table 1 (below) provides a side-by-side comparison of changes in course requirements for graduation with enactment of HB126/aHF1#1.

**Table 1. Existing Graduation Requirements
Compared with Graduation Requirements Proposed by HB126/aHFI#1**

Existing Graduation Requirements	Proposed Graduation Requirements
Four (4) units in English, with major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature; provided that department-approved work-based training or career and technical education courses that meet state English academic content performance standards shall qualify as one of the four required English units;	Four (4) units in English, which must include a sequence of three units; provided that department-approved work-based learning, career technical education or English language development courses that meet state English or English language development academic content and performance standards may qualify as required English units;
Four (4) 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; and provided that a financial literacy course or department-approved work-based training or career and technical education course that meets state mathematics academic content and performance standards shall qualify as one of the four required mathematics units; one unit may comprise a computer science course;	Four (4) units in mathematics, two of which shall include a sequence of algebra 1 and geometry or another integrated pathway of mathematics equivalent to algebra 1 and geometry; provided that algebra 2 be offered as a mathematics course and department-approved work-based learning or career technical education courses that meet state mathematics academic and performance standards may qualify as required mathematics units;
Three (3) units in science, two of which shall have a laboratory component; provided that department-approved work-based training or career and technical education courses that meet state science academic content and performance standards shall qualify as one of the three required science units; one unit may comprise a computer science course;	Three (3) units in science, two of which shall have a laboratory component; provided that department-approved work-based learning or career technical education courses that meet state science academic content and performance standards may qualify as required science units;
Three and one-half (3.5) units in social science, which shall include United States history and geography, world history and geography, government and economics and one-half unit of New Mexico history.	Four (4) units in social science, which include United States history and geography, which course content contains New Mexico history; government and economics, which course content contains civics; personal financial literacy, which course content contains civics, and world history and geography;
One (1) unit in physical education, as determined by each school district, which may include a physical education program that meets state content and performance standards or participation in marching band, junior reserve officers' training corps or interscholastic sports sanctioned by the New Mexico activities association or any other co-curricular physical activity.	One-half (0.5) unit in physical education, as determined by the school district or charter school, which may include a physical education program that meets state academic content and performance standards or participation in marching band, junior reserve officers' training corps or interscholastic sports sanctioned by the New Mexico activities association or any other co-curricular physical activity;
A one-half (0.5) unit course in health education	One-half (0.5) unit in health education;

is required between eighth and twelfth grades.	
One (1) unit in one of the following: a career cluster course, workplace readiness or a language other than English.	No similar requirement unless determined by school district or charter school;
Seven and one-half (7.5) elective units that meet department content and performance standards. Career and technical education courses shall be offered as an elective. Student service learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective.	Four (4) elective units that meet department academic content and performance standards and that must include a two-unit pathway concentration of the student's choice in a language other than English, fine arts, health, military career preparation, career technical education, community learning or a capstone course or work-based learning; provided that financial literacy, computer science, student service learning, career technical education courses and a sequence of languages other than English shall be offered as electives; and provided further that media literacy and pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as electives
No units determined by the district or charter school.	Two (2) units set by each local school board or governing body of a charter school that meet department academic content and performance standards
At least one of the units required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced placement honors course, or a dual-credit course.	At least one of the units required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced placement, honors course, or a dual-credit course.
Minimum 24 Units	Minimum 22 Units

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The bill would require PED to adopt and promulgate rules to implement graduation requirements no later than December 31, 2023.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

None.