

Sixtieth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1194

Introduced by

Representatives R. Kelsch, L. Meier, Monson

Senators Cook, Flakoll, Wardner

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to exemptions from high school instruction programs; to amend and  
3 reenact sections 15.1-21-01, 15.1-21-02, 15.1-21-02.1, and 15.1-21-05 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code, relating to basic, standard, and advanced programs of high school instruction;  
5 and to repeal sections 15.1-21-06 and 15.1-21-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to  
6 goals 2000 and school-to-work programs.

### 7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

#### 10 **15.1-21-01. Education of students - Programs of high school instruction -**

11 **Requirements.** ~~The superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that students receive~~  
12 ~~education in:~~

- 13 1. ~~English language arts, including reading, composition, creative writing, English~~  
14 ~~grammar, and spelling.~~
- 15 2. ~~Mathematics.~~
- 16 3. ~~Social studies, including the United States Constitution, and United States history,~~  
17 ~~geography, and government.~~
- 18 4. ~~Science, including agriculture.~~
- 19 5. ~~Physical education.~~
- 20 6. ~~Health, including physiology, hygiene, disease control, and the nature and effects~~  
21 ~~of alcohol, tobacco, and narcotics.~~ Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, each  
22 school district in the state shall offer to its students a standard course of instruction,  
23 an advanced course of instruction, and a basic course of instruction.
- 24 1. The standard course of instruction consists of:

- a. Four units of English language arts, which must include at least one and one-half units of writing, one unit of literature, one-half unit of American literature, and one-half unit of speech;
- b. Three units of social studies, which must include at least one unit of United States history, one-half unit of United States government, one-half unit of geography, and one-half unit of world history;
- c. Three units of mathematics, which must include at least one unit of algebra I, one unit of algebra II, and one unit of geometry;
- d. Three units of laboratory science, which must include at least biology and either chemistry or physics;
- e. One unit of fine arts;
- f. One-half unit of physical education or health education;
- g. One-half unit of economics or personal finance; and
- h. Two units selected from a list of courses that must include at least the following:
  - (1) One unit of a foreign language;
  - (2) One unit of computer studies;
  - (3) One unit of a career and technical education course approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
  - (4) One unit of mathematics other than those required by subdivision c;  
and
  - (5) One unit of science other than those required by subdivision d.

2. The advanced course of instruction consists of:

- a. Four units of English language arts, which must include at least one and one-half units of writing, one unit of literature, one-half unit of American literature, and one-half unit of speech;
- b. Three units of social studies, which must include at least one unit of United States history, one-half unit of United States government, one-half unit of geography, and one-half unit of world history;
- c. Four units of mathematics, which must include at least one unit of algebra I, one unit of algebra II, and one unit of geometry;

- d. Four units of science, three units of which must be laboratory science, and must include at least biology and either chemistry or physics;
- e. One unit of fine arts;
- f. One-half unit of physical education or health education;
- g. One-half unit of economics or personal finance;
- h. One health unit of computer studies; and
- i. Two units of the same foreign language.

3. The basic course of instruction consists of:

- a. Four units of English language arts, which must include at least one and one-half units of writing, one unit of literature, one-half unit of American literature, and one-half unit of speech;
- b. Three units of social studies, which must include at least one unit of United States history, one-half unit of United States government, one-half unit of geography, and one-half unit of world history;
- c. Three units of mathematics, which must include one unit of algebra I or higher;
- d. Two units of laboratory science;
- e. One unit of fine arts;
- f. One-half unit of physical education or health education;
- g. One-half unit of economics or personal finance; and
- h. Two units selected from a list of courses that must include at least the following:
  - (1) One unit of a foreign language;
  - (2) One unit of computer studies;
  - (3) One unit of a career and technical education course approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
  - (4) One unit of mathematics other than those required by subdivision c; and
  - (5) One unit of science other than those required by subdivision d.

**SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Programs of instruction - Exemption.**

1. Except as provided in subsection 2, beginning with the 2008-09 school year, each student entering high school shall select and pursue either the standard or the advanced program of instruction.

2. a. A student is exempt from the provisions of subsection 1 if:

(1) The student and the student's parent meet with either a career counselor or an administrator employed at the student's high school and discuss the short-term and long-term consequences of foregoing either the standard or the advanced program of instruction; and

(2) The student's parent signs a document indicating that both the student and the student's parent understand the short-term and long-term consequences of foregoing either the standard or the advanced program of instruction.

3. A student who is exempt from the provisions of subsection 1 shall pursue the basic course of instruction.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-21-02. High schools - Required units.**

1. In order to be approved by the superintendent of public instruction, each public and nonpublic high school shall make available to each student at least every two years:

a. Four units of English language arts, which must include at least one and one-half units of writing, one unit of literature, one-half unit of American literature, and one-half unit of speech;

b. Three units of social studies, which must include at least one unit of United States history, one-half unit of United States government, one-half unit of geography, and one-half unit of world history;

c. Four units of mathematics, which must include at least one unit of algebra I, one unit of algebra II, and one unit of geometry;

d. Four units of science, three units of which must be laboratory science, and must include at least biology and either chemistry or physics;

- 1           d. ~~Four units of social studies, including one of world history and one of United~~  
2           ~~States history;~~
- 3           e. ~~One half unit of health;~~
- 4           f. ~~One half unit of physical education;~~
- 5           g. ~~Two units~~ One unit of fine arts, ~~at least one of which must be music;~~
- 6           f. One-half unit of physical education or health education;
- 7           g. One-half unit of economics or personal finance;
- 8           h. Two units of the same foreign language; ~~and~~
- 9           i. ~~Two units~~ One unit of computer studies; ~~and~~
- 10          j. One unit of a career and technical education course approved by the  
11          superintendent of public instruction.
- 12          2. Each unit which must be made available under subsection 1 must meet or exceed  
13          the state content standards.
- 14          3. ~~For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "make~~  
15          ~~available" means that:~~
- 16          a. ~~Each public high school and nonpublic high school shall allow students to~~  
17          ~~select units over the course of a high school career from a list that includes at~~  
18          ~~least all the units provided in subsection 1;~~
- 19          b. ~~If a student selects a unit from the list required by subsection 1, the public~~  
20          ~~high school or the nonpublic high school shall provide the unit to the student;~~  
21          ~~and~~
- 22          e. ~~The unit may be provided to the student through~~ A school or school district  
23          may make the required units available by any delivery method not contrary to  
24          state law and may include classroom or individual instruction and distance  
25          learning options, including interactive video, computer instruction,  
26          correspondence courses, and postsecondary enrollment under chapter  
27          15.1-25.
- 28          4. The board of a school district may not impose any fees or charges upon a student  
29          for the provision of or participation in units as provided in this section, other than  
30          the fees permitted by section 15.1-09-36.

- 1           5. If in order to meet the minimum requirements of this section a school district  
2 includes academic courses offered by a postsecondary institution under chapter  
3 15.1-25, the school district shall:
- 4           a. Pay all costs of the student's attendance, except those fees that are  
5 permissible under section 15.1-09-36; and
- 6           b. Transport the student to and from the location at which the course is offered  
7 or provide mileage reimbursement to the student if transportation is provided  
8 by the student or the student's family.
- 9           6. The requirements of this section do not apply to alternative high schools or  
10 alternative high school education programs.

11           **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code  
12 is amended and reenacted as follows:

13           **15.1-21-02.1. High school coursework requirements - Transcript and diploma**  
14 **notation.** Before a school district, a nonpublic high school, or the North Dakota division of  
15 independent study issues a high school diploma to a student, the student must have  
16 successfully completed at least ~~twenty-one~~ twenty-two units of high school coursework ~~from the~~  
17 ~~minimum required curriculum offerings established by section 15.1-21-02.~~ The student's  
18 diploma and transcript must indicate whether the student completed the requirements for the  
19 standard, the advanced, or the basic program of instruction.

20           **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22           **15.1-21-05. Indian education curriculum.** The superintendent of public instruction  
23 may develop an Indian education curriculum to be implemented within the ~~minimum curriculum~~  
24 ~~requirements for elementary and secondary schools~~ standard, the advanced, and the basic  
25 programs of instruction required by section 15.1-21-01. The superintendent shall provide for  
26 continuing research and evaluation and for inservice training necessary to implement an Indian  
27 education curriculum.

28           **SECTION 6. REPEAL.** Sections 15.1-21-06 and 15.1-21-07 of the North Dakota  
29 Century Code are repealed.