

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-21-01, 15.1-21-02, 15.1-21-02.1, and  
2 15.1-21-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to mandatory computer science and  
3 cybersecurity instruction and minimum requirements for high school graduation.

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

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

7 **15.1-21-01. Elementary and middle schools - Required instruction.**

8 ~~1.~~ To be approved by the superintendent of public instruction, each public and  
9 nonpublic elementary and middle school shall provide to students instruction in:

10 4. ~~a.~~ a. English language arts, including reading, composition, creative writing, English  
11 grammar, and spelling.

12 2. ~~b.~~ b. Mathematics.

13 3. ~~c.~~ c. Social studies, including:

14 a. ~~(1)~~ (1) The United States Constitution;

15 b. ~~(2)~~ (2) United States history;

16 e. ~~(3)~~ (3) Geography;

17 d. ~~(4)~~ (4) Government; and

18 e. ~~(5)~~ (5) North Dakota studies, with an emphasis on geography, history, the federally  
19 recognized Indian tribes in the state, and agriculture of this state, in the  
20 fourth and eighth grades.

21 4. ~~d.~~ d. Science, including agriculture.

22 5. ~~e.~~ e. Physical education.

23 6. ~~f.~~ f. Health, including physiology, hygiene, disease control, and the nature and effects  
24 of alcohol, tobacco, and narcotics.

- 1           g. Computer science, including cybersecurity.  
2           2. Each public and nonpublic elementary and middle school shall develop a computer  
3           science and cybersecurity integration plan to ensure introduction to foundational  
4           computer science and cybersecurity knowledge and careers. The superintendent of  
5           public instruction, in collaboration with the information technology department, shall  
6           approve each plan.

7           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9           **15.1-21-02. High schools - Required units.**

- 10          1. ~~In order to~~To be approved by the superintendent of public instruction, each public and  
11          nonpublic high school shall provide instruction in or make available to each student:  
12          a. Four units of English language arts from a sequence that includes literature,  
13             composition, and speech;  
14          b. Four units of mathematics, including:  
15             (1) One unit of algebra II; and  
16             (2) One unit for which algebra II is a prerequisite;  
17          c. Four units of science, including:  
18             (1) One unit of physical science; and  
19             (2) One unit of biology;  
20          d. Four units of social studies, including:  
21             (1) One unit of world history;  
22             (2) One unit of United States history, including Native American tribal history;  
23             and  
24             (3) (a) One unit of problems of democracy; or  
25                 (b) One-half unit of United States government and one-half unit of  
26                 economics;  
27          e. One-half unit of health;  
28          f. One-half unit of physical education during each school year, provided that once  
29          every four years the unit must be a concept-based fitness class that includes  
30          instruction in the assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal  
31          fitness;

- 1 g. Two units of fine arts, at least one of which must be music;
- 2 h. Two units of the same foreign or native American language;
- 3 i. One unit of an advanced placement course or one unit of a dual-credit course;
- 4 and
- 5 j. Two units of career and technical education from a coordinated plan of study
- 6 recommended by the department of career and technical education and
- 7 approved by the superintendent of public instruction; and
- 8 k. One unit of computer science or cybersecurity.
- 9 2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, each public and nonpublic high school
- 10 shall ~~make~~:
- 11 a. Make available to each student, at least once every two years, one-half unit of
- 12 North Dakota studies, with an emphasis on the geography, history, and
- 13 agriculture of this state.
- 14 b. Develop a computer science and cybersecurity integration plan to ensure
- 15 introduction to computer science and cybersecurity knowledge, careers, and
- 16 degrees or certificates. The superintendent of public instruction, in collaboration
- 17 with the information technology department, shall approve each plan.
- 18 3. Each unit which must be made available under this section must meet or exceed the
- 19 state content standards, unless a school district or governing board of a nonpublic
- 20 high school has adopted a mastery framework policy and awards units based on the
- 21 successful completion of the relevant portions of the North Dakota learning continuum.
- 22 A mastery framework policy adopted by a school district or governing board of a
- 23 nonpublic high school must identify the portions of the North Dakota learning
- 24 continuum which must be mastered for a student to attain units necessary for high
- 25 school graduation under section 15.1-21-02.2.
- 26 4. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "make available"
- 27 means that:
- 28 a. Each public high school and nonpublic high school shall allow students to select
- 29 units over the course of a high school career from a list that includes at least
- 30 those required by this section;

- 1           b. If a student selects a unit from the list required by this section, the public high  
2           school or the nonpublic high school shall provide the unit to the student; and  
3           c. The unit may be provided to the student through any delivery method not  
4           contrary to state law and may include classroom or individual instruction and  
5           distance learning options, including interactive video, computer instruction,  
6           correspondence courses, and postsecondary enrollment under chapter 15.1-25.
- 7           5. The board of a school district may not impose any fees or charges upon a student for  
8           the provision of or participation in units as provided in this section, other than the fees  
9           permitted by section 15.1-09-36.
- 10          6. If in order to meet the minimum requirements of this section a school district includes  
11          academic courses offered by a postsecondary institution under chapter 15.1-25, the  
12          school district shall:
- 13           a. Pay all costs of the student's attendance, except those fees that are permissible  
14           under section 15.1-09-36; and  
15           b. Transport the student to and from the location at which the course is offered or  
16           provide mileage reimbursement to the student if transportation is provided by the  
17           student or the student's family.
- 18          7. The requirements of this section do not apply to alternative high schools or alternative  
19          high school education programs.
- 20          8. The requirements of subdivisions g and h of subsection 1 do not apply to the North  
21          Dakota youth correctional center.

22          **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23          amended and reenacted as follows:

24          **15.1-21-02.1. High school diploma - Minimum units.**

25          Except as provided in section 15.1-21-02.3 or as otherwise agreed to in the compact on  
26          educational opportunity for military children, before a school district, a nonpublic high school, or  
27          the center for distance education issues a high school diploma to a student, the student must  
28          have successfully completed:

- 29           1. The ~~twenty-two~~required units of high school coursework set forth in section  
30           15.1-21-02.2; and

- 1           2. Any additional units of high school coursework required by the issuing entity, two of  
2           which may be theological studies if taught in a nonpublic school by an approved  
3           theological studies instructor.

4           **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6           **15.1-21-02.2. High school graduation - Minimum requirements. (Effective through**  
7 **July 31, 2025)**

- 8           1. Except as provided in section 15.1-21-02.3 and subsection 2, the following ~~twenty-two~~  
9           units of high school coursework constitute the minimum requirement for high school  
10          graduation:
- 11          a. Four units of English language arts from a sequence that includes literature,  
12          composition, and speech;
- 13          b. Three units of mathematics, which may include one unit of computer science  
14          approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
- 15          c. Three units of science, consisting of:
- 16               (1) (a) One unit of biology;
- 17               (b) One unit of chemistry; and
- 18               (c) One unit of physics; or
- 19               (2) (a) One unit of biology;
- 20               (b) One unit of physical science; and
- 21               (c) One unit or two one-half units of any other science, which may include  
22               one unit of computer science approved by the superintendent of  
23               public instruction;
- 24          d. Three units of social studies, including:
- 25               (1) One unit of United States history;
- 26               (2) (a) One-half unit of United States government and one-half unit of  
27               economics; or
- 28               (b) One unit of problems of democracy; and
- 29               (3) One unit or two one-half units of any other social studies, which may include  
30               civics, civilization, geography and history, multicultural studies, North Dakota  
31               studies, psychology, sociology, and world history;

- 1 e. (1) One unit of physical education; or
- 2 (2) One-half unit of physical education and one-half unit of health;
- 3 f. Three units of:
- 4 (1) Foreign languages;
- 5 (2) Native American languages;
- 6 (3) Fine arts; or
- 7 (4) Career and technical education courses; and
- 8 g. Any five additional units.
- 9 2. If approved by the board of a school district or nonpublic school, a school district or
- 10 nonpublic school may develop eligibility criteria or programmatic requirements to allow
- 11 a passing score on the relevant portions of the GED assessment to receive credit for
- 12 the corresponding requirements of subdivisions a through d of subsection 1.

**High school graduation - Minimum requirements. (Effective after July 31, 2025)**

- 14 1. Except as provided in section 15.1-21-02.3 and subsection 2, the following ~~twenty-two~~
- 15 units of high school coursework constitute the minimum requirement for high school
- 16 graduation:
- 17 a. Four units of English language arts from a sequence that includes literature,
- 18 composition, and speech;
- 19 b. Three units of mathematics, which may include one unit of computer science
- 20 approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
- 21 c. Three units of science, consisting of:
- 22 (1) (a) One unit of biology;
- 23 (b) One unit of chemistry; and
- 24 (c) One unit of physics; or
- 25 (2) (a) One unit of biology;
- 26 (b) One unit of physical science; and
- 27 (c) One unit or two one-half units of any other science, which may include
- 28 one unit of computer science approved by the superintendent of
- 29 public instruction;
- 30 d. Three units of social studies, including:
- 31 (1) One unit of United States history, including Native American tribal history;

- 1                   (2) (a) One-half unit of United States government and one-half unit of  
2    economics; or  
3                   (b) One unit of problems of democracy; and  
4                   (3) One unit or two one-half units of any other social studies, which may include  
5    civics, civilization, geography and history, multicultural studies, North Dakota  
6    studies, psychology, sociology, and world history;  
7                   e. (1) One unit of physical education; or  
8    (2) One-half unit of physical education and one-half unit of health;  
9                   f. Three units of:  
10                                        (1) Foreign languages;  
11                                        (2) Native American languages;  
12                                        (3) Fine arts; or  
13                                        (4) Career and technical education courses; and  
14                   g. One unit of computer science or cybersecurity, or the completion of a computer  
15                                        science and cybersecurity integration plan approved by the superintendent of  
16                                        public instruction; and  
17                   h. Any five additional units.  
18                   2. If a student has completed one unit of computer science under subdivision b or c of  
19                                        subsection 1, the requirements of subdivision g of subsection 1 are waived.  
20                   3. If approved by the board of a school district or nonpublic school, a school district or  
21                                        nonpublic school may develop eligibility criteria or programmatic requirements to allow  
22                                        a passing score on the relevant portions of the GED assessment to receive credit for  
23                                        the corresponding requirements of subdivisions a through d of subsection 1.