



- 1 B. "Spanish Language" refers to Mexican Spanish, as opposed to Castilian Spanish.  
2 C. "Students" refers to children between 5 and 18 enrolled in accredited public, private,  
3 and/or home schools.

4 SECTION 2. PROVISIONS.

5 This bill shall be enacted to promote the learning of the Spanish language. Spanish is the  
6 second most spoken language in the United States of America. Spanish is widely used in  
7 public and private life in New Mexico especially. As of 2013, approximately 29% of New  
8 Mexico's population over the age of five spoke Spanish at home. The Spanish language  
9 has been a part of New Mexican culture, heritage, and history since before the United  
10 States declared its independence and much before New Mexico gained its statehood.  
11 Research has shown that the ease of learning another language dwindles over time.  
12 Studies have also shown that to achieve fluency, individuals should start learning a  
13 language before age 10. This is due to brain development and external factors (such as  
14 new responsibilities that come with being an adult). So, it is crucial that all New Mexican  
15 students have the availability and opportunity to learn and develop a language so integral  
16 to New Mexico's culture, history, and daily life at a time when they are most susceptible to  
17 learning and retaining it.

18 A. All elementary curriculum in New Mexico shall be required to include the maximum  
19 number of (5) hours of educational instructional per week, but no less than one (1) hour per  
20 week, per school year OR no less than thirty-six (36) educational instructional hours total  
21 per school year in the subject of Spanish language.

22 B. The minimum standards of this curriculum shall be decided and regulated by the  
23 New Mexico Public Education Department.

24 C. The implementation of these instructional hours shall be decided by local school  
25 boards and/or homeschool organizations.

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2 All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State of New  
3 Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed.

4 Delayed Start - Update the date to reflect your bills start date.

5 The provisions of this act shall be effective on and after June 1st, 2019.

