

Bernalillo School Board Secretary
Jodilynn Ortiz

Report Analysis for:
New Mexico School Board Association
President Olivia Calabaza
300 Galisteo St. STE 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Olivia4kids.nmsba@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

Jodilynn Ortiz, Bernalillo School Board Secretary, has conducted an analysis on Student graduation for 2020 during State and Federal Government emergency closure of schools across the United States. This has caused issue and concern among the Senior class and their parents, along with teachers, and Superintendents at the Bernalillo School District and across the State of New Mexico. Upon, viewing many procedures within the State based on graduation guidelines and requirements and identifying, aspects in credits, ESSA, Assessments, and the Standards with Math, Reading, Writing, Science, and Social Studies, along with the current affairs issues and health issues, State and Federal Government stopping the testing at this time for students which include the many tests needed for graduating students. Also, safety with health and not contracting the COVID-19 virus, and ordering school closures to uphold to self-distancing amongst students/citizens.

- There are school closures that are to uplift on April 6th but foresight shows that other states in the US are not lifting this, when other Countries have had ongoing foreclosures lasting the duration of the epidemic. (Theresa Waldrop, 2020) and a total of 138 country-wide closures. (UNESCO, 2020)
- Parents and Seniors are concerned, and want to know what their child is to plan for. As students have been stressing over their graduation planning through this closure, for next year's college applications.
- After reviewing New Mexico State PED requirements in statute and rule: 22-2C.4-Statewide Assessments, 22-13-1.1 Graduation Requirements, and 6.19.7/6.29.1.9 NMAC Demonstration of Competency for High School Graduation
- Students must complete: 24 credit hours: Math (4), English (4), science (3). Social studies 3.5), PE (1), career or foreign language (1), and electives (7.5).
- Demonstrating competency: there is no local demonstration but have other options such as portfolios and career technical pathways. With passing scores for Cohort 2020. The graduation requirements are overseen by PED Assessment Bureau for competency requirements and PED College and Career Readiness Bureau who oversees coursework requirements. (PED, 2020)

Each above issues are in need of transparency, for your School Districts and most important our Students and parents.

In the next few remaining pages of this report, there will be list of exact findings, and results with suggestions to overcome this analysis with a conclusion.

SERVICE/METHODOLOGY

Jodilynn Ortiz Bernalillo School Board Secretary will use a direct method of Q and A, requesting visual and concrete evidence of PED State requirements for graduation.

Researching via State department's website on Senior requirements to graduate.

Requirements include:

- Credit requirements (24hour credits)
- Assessments: Competency Requirements based on passing ONE assessment in the Menu of Measures
- Standards: Math, Reading, Writing, Science, Social Studies, Physical Ed, Career Cluster/foreign language, Electives, Health. In conjunction with ESSA and ELS.

This process is to allow for concrete evidence and knowledge to how to better manage the graduation ability for Seniors to graduate during this epidemic and foresight of an evident continued closure for the remaining of the school year (2020-Graduating Class).

The Federal Law IDEA and IPE standards (6.19.7 NMAC), is to give service to all children who are of age a education. During this time, all Districts in the State of New Mexico, are assigning Students packages of study according to STEM practice and fulfillment for students to have an ongoing session of studies while at home. In conjunction, Seniors are being given packets to meet minimum requirements. Should it be so easy, to simply state and give each Senior a diploma for this year? It is not due to States and Federal requirements. Is it possible to give Seniors a graduation during this time of year-Yes.

Let the explanation continue further in this analysis.

KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings #1



Credit Hours and Standards:

Each senior student is at a level of completion of credit hours based on Standards and Credit Hour Requirements, which include as mentioned above:

- Math (4 credit hours per student’s high school years)
- Reading/Writing (4 credit hours per student’s high school years; emphasizing on grammar, nonfiction writing, and literature)
- Science (3 credit hours per student’s high school years)
- Social Studies (3.5 credit hours per student’s high school years; within these credit hours they are given courses in US History, geography, world history and government and economics and a .5 credit in NM history).
- Physical Ed (1 unit credit)
- Career Cluster/workplace readiness or foreign language (1 unit credit)
- Electives (7.5 units that meet department content and performance standards).
- Health (1 course; .5 or 1 credit)

There are IPEs for students with disability and they should uphold to a Modified option; based on an individualized passing score-this can be a determining factor for demonstration of competency. Giving a based portfolio passing score by IEP team. NOTE: all tests have been stopped per Federal law, due to this epidemic and assessments will be excluded.

Key Findings #2



Assessments/Demonstration of Competency:

As noted above regarding IEPs, it is acknowledged that via the Federal regulation on testing for students will be cancelled for this years’ duration, causing assessments to not follow suite for this year’s normality rating of students. Causing the State and Districts to rethink graduation.

Demonstration of competency within PEDs requirements, PED **does** require waivers for any requested change to the prescribed course work requirements. Graduation coursework waivers are obtained from the PED Waivers web page and submitted to Waivers.PED@state.nm.us. (PED, 2020) The 2020 and 2021 Competency requirements for Cohorts within this years' graduation is considered a passing of one of the assessments listed on the Menu of Measures or Using a local demonstrations of competency approved by the school board (district) or board of governors (state charter). (PED, 2020) With a Standard - based portfolio approval to the local board developed by the LEAs (team). For local boards to have an alternative opportunity available if a student doesn't finish a planned curriculum, this is in NM statute 22-13-1.1. (PED, 2020)

Key Findings #3




Closure of All State District Public Schools: COVID-19

As this epidemic is in crisis mode within our Education department and the announcement was made by the Governor of New Mexico to close all public schools for three weeks and returning on April 6' 2020. The underlying issue is an ongoing closure for the remaining of the year effecting graduation for the Class of 2020.

This prompts for questions via this epidemic and the safety of our students, as is a known need. The concerns of parents and their Seniors is to know what they will do next, will they not be able to graduate or will they have the ability to continue on their paths, with submissions to colleges, or whatever paths they have set goals to, to move forward within these trying times. Parents have been expressing these issues and also, stating they will not send their children to school the remaining of the school year due to this epidemic, if the public schools were to reopen. This is indication of where parents stand. Should these students be penalized through this epidemic to not be able to graduate as they have been planning all their educational years? After analyzing this issue, there is an ability that these Seniors are able to graduate as planned but with alterations and with local school boards approval per NM statute 22-13-1.1.




Visual Data



Credit Definitive

Case Records

Findings 1

The graphic features a dark blue background with a large, stylized yellow and blue arrow pointing to the right. The text 'Credit Definitive' is written in white and yellow. Below the graphic, the text 'Case Records' is centered, and a blue button at the bottom contains the text 'Findings 1'.

Grants

Findings 2

The graphic shows a stack of colorful books (red, blue, yellow) with a green apple on top, set against a green chalkboard background. Below the graphic, the text 'Grants' is centered, and a blue button at the bottom contains the text 'Findings 2'.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Budget

findings 3

The graphic depicts a classroom scene with a desk, chair, and a yellow school bus silhouette. The text 'SCHOOL CLOSINGS' is written in large, bold, blue letters. Below the graphic, the text 'Budget' is centered, and a blue button at the bottom contains the text 'findings 3'.



CONCLUSION

The recommendations regarding this issue under, NM State laws with State and Federal decisions through this epidemic, is to act on the safety of our students within the education realm. The need to decide what to do for Seniors during this time is critical to moving our students forward, and make sure the NM Public School system is adhering to its laws and the Federal ones also. This analysis is to recommend and conclude the graduation of 2020 for students in this state.

With the findings pointed out: there is a need for credit hours to be met. The local board has authority to approve the demonstration of competency, The LEAs are to develop a curriculum (graduations course work) for these to be met according to the requirements of STEM. A Portfolio is to be given as recommendation; for approval to the Local Boards. There is a Waiver to apply for: Graduation coursework waivers are obtained from the PED Waivers web page and submitted to Waivers.PED@state.nm.us, in order to make changes to graduation coursework.

These findings, will give guidance for a plan to give graduates their opportunity to be the class of 2020, as they have planned their full education years. A suggestion, would be to give each senior a course work designed to their individual graduation needs for completion, such as an essay encompassing the requirements, they need for the next few months. When they receive this course work, they will be able to adjust to the special course work that is based on their individual requirement that is pending. The

course work, is again developed by the LEAs team effort within the next few weeks, at each district to prepare and add to their already packages they have worked on with their Superintendents to fill the gap of what is still needed.

Then next step would be to apply for waivers or have a set mandate from the State PED office and Governor to allow these waivers to be accepted for all Senior students. These waivers are again, to be used to make changes for graduation course work. The reality for students to achieve and Districts to be in compliance to State and Federal laws. Because of the Federal government cancelling all testing this is a way to move forward without that intense stressful time for students during this time and concentrate on their Essay. This also, includes the Seniors with disabilities, but done with IEP recommendations on modifying their coursework.

When the development of the course work takes place it should be given to the local board to make decision that the students are in a path that is in compliance to the States statues and standards for graduation for final approval and signatures to be placed on diplomas (per NM statute 22-13-1.1) . A virtual graduation could take place for those who have internet, or a rescheduling of the actual ceremony be scheduled when the epidemic may turn to normal setting, or a simple diploma sent to each Senior, depending on the situation at the time of graduation date.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Graduation for Seniors “Class of 2020” is possible.
- Develop course work from Districts LEAs based on STEM, in ESSAY form hitting credit hours and course needs and filling the gap that is already been given to seniors by districts, for an individual basis and for our Disabled Seniors via IEPs.
- State to give waivers so districts are able to make changes to course work for Seniors to graduate.
- Local School Boards to have final approval of portfolio packages for Seniors course work done by Districts LEAs. Per NM Statute 22-12-1.1.
- Set a graduation
- Be mindful of our current situation and continue on the path of self-distancing within the State and Federal government during this epidemic.