

Graduation Requirements

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Presenter



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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH COHORT 2028

24 units

COURSE WORK

ENGLISH 4 UNITS

ELA 1
ELA 2
ELA 3
ELA 4

*ELD courses satisfy
requirement*

MATH 4 UNITS

Algebra 1
Geometry
Algebra 2
4th Math

*One credit must be
at the level of
Algebra 2 or higher*

SCIENCE 3 UNITS

Lab Science
Lab Science
Science

SOCIAL STUDIES 3.5 UNITS

NM History
US History
World History
Government/Economics
0.5 credit in NM History

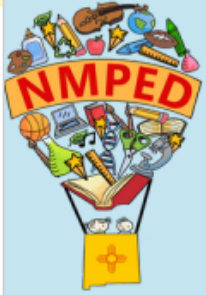
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1 UNIT

HEALTH 0.5 UNIT

CAREER CLUSTER, WORKPLACE READINESS, OR LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH 1 UNIT

ELECTIVES 7 UNITS

One unit must be honors, dual credit, distance learning, or AP.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS BEGINNING WITH COHORT 2029

24 units

COURSE WORK

ENGLISH 4 UNITS

ELA 1

ELA 2

ELA 3

4th English

*ELD Courses satisfy
requirement. CTE or
WBL can meet this
requirement*

MATH 4 UNITS

Algebra 1

Geometry

3rd Math

4th Math

*CTE or WBL can
meet this
requirement*

SCIENCE 3 UNITS

Lab Science

Lab Science

Science

*CTE or WBL can meet
this requirement*

SOCIAL STUDIES 4 UNITS

US History w/ NM History

World History

Government/Economics

4th Social Studies

*NM History can be offered as a
stand alone course*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1 UNIT

HEALTH 0.5 UNIT

ELECTIVES 5.5 UNITS

*Must include a 2-unit
pathway concentration of
the student's choice*

LOCAL REQUIREMENT 2 UNITS

*Two units set by each local
school board or governing
body that meet department
academic content and
performance standards*

Algebra 2, Financial Literacy, and Computer Science shall be offered.

A student shall still have the opportunity to take Dual Credit, Honors, AP, and IB courses.

Two Sets of Graduation Requirements

Through Cohort 2028

24 units

- English - 4 units
- Math - 4 units
- Science - 3 units (2 labs)
- Social Studies - 3.5 units
- Physical Ed - 1 unit
- Health - 0.5 unit
- Electives - 7 units
- Career Cluster, Workplace Readiness, Language other than English - 1 unit

One credit must be honors, dual credit, distance learning, or Advanced Placement.

Cohort 2029 and beyond

24 units

- English - 4 units
- Math - 4 units
- Science - 3 units(2 labs)
- Social Studies - 4 units
- Physical Ed - 1 unit
- Health - 0.5 unit
- Electives - 5.5 units
 - 2-unit pathway concentration
- Local Requirement - 2 units
 - Set by each local school board or governing body.

A student shall still have the opportunity to take: Algebra 2, Financial Literacy, Computer Science, Dual Credit, Honors, AP, IB Courses.

Course Waivers

Any deviation from the prescribed graduation requirements must be approved by the NMPED, via a coursework waiver.

Graduation coursework waivers can be obtained via the [Waivers for New Mexico Public Education | NMPED](#) page. Submit completed waivers to: waivers.PED@ped.nm.gov

Waivers

[Home](#) > [Waivers](#)

New Mexico school districts and state-chartered schools can request waivers from the Secretary of Education.

Please email Waivers.PED@ped.nm.gov for any questions regarding waivers.

Waiver Request Forms

- [Absences Preventing Competition Participation](#)
- [Alternate Assessment One Percent Proficiency Limit](#)
- [Alternate Credit](#)
- [Alternate ESL Course Credit](#)
- [Special Education\(Gifted\) Caseload](#)
- [Special Education Caseload](#)
- [Special Education Caseload \(Large\)](#)
- [Change of School Name, Address or Phone Number Notification](#)
- [Class Load](#)
- [Graduation Requirements](#)
- [Instructional Hours](#)
- [Instructional Materials](#)
- [Physical Education](#)
- [Application for Establishing, Reorganizing or Closing Schools](#)
- [Targeted Levels of Proficiency](#)
- [Licensure Waivers \(Endorsement, Substitute, etc.\)](#)
- [Charter Waivers \(Non-Discretionary Waivers\)](#)

Cohort 2028 and prior years

MIDDLE SCHOOL CREDIT

The following credits earned prior to enrolling in high school will meet the graduation requirements:

Algebra 1 and Health

Cohort 2029 and future years

MIDDLE SCHOOL CREDIT

Through HB171, the following credits earned prior to enrolling in high school will meet the graduation requirements:

Algebra 1, Geometry, and Health

Middle School Credit Through Cohort 2028

Students can earn credit in the following courses, prior to enrolling in high school:

- **Health***
- **Algebra 1***

***Teacher of record must hold a secondary endorsement in the subject area.**

Middle School Credit Cohort 2029 and Beyond

Students can earn credit in the following courses, prior to enrolling in high school:

- **Health***
- **Algebra 1***
- **Geometry***

***Teacher of record must hold a secondary endorsement in the subject area.**

Demonstration of Competency

With the signing of HB171 into law, students are no longer required to demonstrate competency in the five subject areas of math, reading, writing, science, and social studies.

However, per NMAC 6.29.1, General Provisions, a final exam shall be administered to all students in all courses offered for credit.

High school students are still required to participate in ESSA testing as assigned in grade 11 and grades 9-12 if identified as an English learner who has not met the state's exit criteria.

Graduate Profile

With the signing of HB171 into law, each school district/charter school shall create and use a graduate profile to specify the following competencies that students should have when they graduate from your district/charter school:

- Cognitive
- Personal
- Interpersonal

Interim Next Step Plan (NSP) Timeline

Subsection C

8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade
Each 8th grade student shall prepare an interim NSP that sets for the course work for grade 9.	Each 9th grade student shall prepare an interim NSP that sets for the course work for grade 10.	Each 10th grade student shall prepare an interim NSP that sets for the course work for grade 11.	Each 11th grade student shall prepare an interim NSP that sets for the course work for grade 12.

Each year's plan shall

- Be aligned to the graduate profile of the student's school district or charter school.
- Be completed on a department-approved template.
- Explain any differences from previous interim next-step plans.
- Be signed by the student, the student's parent and the student's guidance counselor or other school official charged with coursework planning for the student.

Final Next Step Plan (NSP) Timeline

Subsection D

12th Grade

Each student must complete a final next-step plan during the senior year and prior to graduation.

The plan shall

- Be aligned to the graduate profile of the student's school district or charter school.
- Be completed on a department-approved template.
- Be signed by the student, the student's parent and the student's guidance counselor or other school official charged with coursework planning for the student.
- Be filed with the principal of the student's high school.

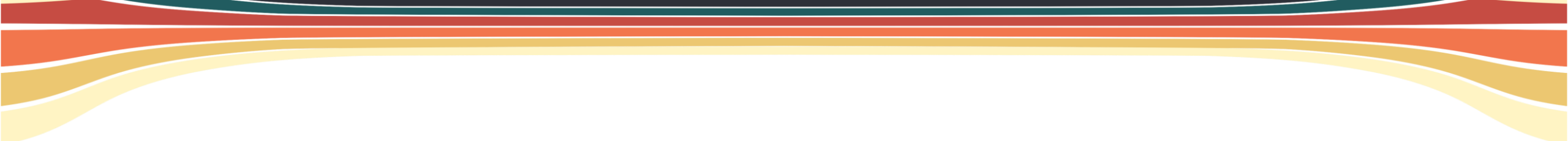
Additional Resources

 NEW MEXICO Public Education Department ACADEMIC COUNSELING TIMELINE	
 JULY STUDENT SCHEDULES	Prior to schedule delivery, student schedules should be reviewed with the transcript or course audit sheet to ensure proper placement.
Individual meetings should be held to assist seniors with their final next step plan and postsecondary goals.	AUGUST SENIOR FINAL NSP 
 SEPTEMBER JUNIOR NSP	Individual meetings should be held to assist juniors with their next step plan and goals for senior year, and to ensure their junior year goals still stand.
Download an F list from your SSIS. Meet with students who have F's and D's, to offer support services.	OCTOBER NINE WEEKS GRADES 
 NOVEMBER PRE REGISTRATION PREP	Meet with staff to determine which electives and core courses they would like to teach next year. Use this data to develop your pre-registration course lists to help determine which classes you should plan to offer.
Download an F list from your SSIS. Schedule students who failed a course and develop a plan to recover those credits. Ensure NSPs are finalized and signed for early graduates.	DECEMBER END OF SEMESTER/ EARLY GRADES 
 JANUARY FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE NSP	Meet with freshman and sophomore students to assist with their next step plan and goals for the next year, and prepare for pre-registration.
Hold pre-registration to obtain the data needed to build your master schedule.	FEBRUARY REGISTRATION PREP 
 MARCH NINE WEEKS GRADES	Download an F list from your SSIS. Meet with students who have F's and D's, to offer support services.
Double-check that students have requested the proper core courses. Provide teachers with course request sheets for their help in ensuring students are properly placed.	APRIL MASTER SCHEDULE 
 MAY FINALIZE NSPS / GRADE CHECKS	Run an F list to determine which students must re-enroll in a course or take credit recovery/summer school. Ensure NSPs are finalized and signed for all students.
Audit transcripts. Post all grades from the school year on your credit check/audit sheet. Double-check schedules or course requests for the next school year.	JUNE TRANSCRIPT AUDIT 

Toolkit to be released soon.

- [Graduation Requirements – New Mexico Public Education Department](#)

 NEW MEXICO Public Education Department GOAL GRADUATION: GRADE 12 TIMELINE	
 JULY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & TRANSCRIPTS	Review the graduation requirements for your cohort and compare to your high school transcript.
Use the transcript audit tool to audit your transcript and ensure that you are registered in the correct classes.	AUGUST TRANSCRIPT AUDIT SHEET & CLASS SCHEDULE 
 SEPTEMBER GRADES & SUPPORT / SAT & ACT	Are you struggling in a class? Reach out to teachers, counselors, and/or administrators to set a plan to help you succeed. Register to take the ACT or SAT for college admissions.
What is your plan after graduation? Review your Next Step Plan (NSP) and start putting things in play, like college applications. Need help? Contact your counselor.	OCTOBER POST GRADUATION GOALS 
 NOVEMBER COLLEGE APPLICATIONS	If you have not yet started working on your Final Next Step Plan, contact your counselor for more information. Now is a good time for college visits and college applications.
Did you pass all of your classes? Double check that you are taking the right classes semester 2 to help you graduate. Fail a class? Meet with your counselor right away to make a plan for credit recovery. Are you graduating early? Make sure your NSP is finalized and signed.	DECEMBER GRADE REVIEW 
 JANUARY TRANSCRIPT AUDIT SHEET & CLASS SCHEDULE	Use the transcript audit tool to audit your transcript and ensure that you are registered in the correct classes.
Are you struggling in a class? Reach out to teachers, counselors, and/or administrators to set a plan to help you succeed.	FEBRUARY GRADES & SUPPORT 
 MARCH STATE TESTING	Ensure that you have taken your state assessments. Need help? Contact your school counselor.
Make sure you have everything in place for graduation, including your NSP which should be completed and signed before you graduate.	APRIL GRADUATION CHECK 
 MAY GRADUATION	



Diploma Pathways

Graduation Pathways for Students with Disabilities

Amendments to NMAC 6.29.1 have been Formally Adopted and are Final

- Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, through **House Bill 171 (HB171)** New Mexico introduced two primary graduation pathways: the Standard Diploma Pathway and the Ability Diploma Pathway.
- These changes are significant, particularly for students with disabilities, as they are designed to ensure that all students have a pathway to graduate based on their individual needs and abilities.
- These two pathways apply to students with disabilities who entered ninth grade in 2025 and graduate 2029 or later.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH COHORT 2028

24 units

PATHWAYS

Standard Diploma Pathway

Traditional route for students who meet the general education requirements, including the completion of coursework and state assessments. Students with disabilities can participate in the Standard Diploma Pathway, but accommodations and modifications may be made to help them meet these requirements.

Modified Diploma Pathway

Alternative program of study that includes development of the student's career interest. This pathway will be uniquely designed for student by the IEP Team and may include adjustments to student required courses.

Ability Diploma Pathway

Specifically designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities by the student's IEP team. Students on the ability pathway take the alternate assessment in at least one subject. Guidance on the qualifiers eligibility for the ability pathway are detailed in the August 4, 2023, Memorandum regarding identification of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

COHORT 2029 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

PATHWAYS

Standard Diploma Pathway

Traditional route for students who meet the general education requirements, including the completion of coursework and state assessments. Students with disabilities can participate in the Standard Diploma Pathway, but accommodations and modifications may be made to help them meet these requirements.

Ability Diploma Pathway

Specifically designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities by the student's IEP team. Students on the ability pathway take an alternative assessment in at least one subject. Guidance on the qualifiers eligibility for the ability pathway are detailed in the August 4, 2023, Memorandum regarding identification of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Graduation Pathways for Students with Disabilities

Standard Diploma Pathway of Study Decision Process

- The IEP team determines whether the Standard Program of Study is appropriate.
- The team evaluates whether the student:
 - Met all graduation requirements set by the New Mexico Standards for Excellence.
 - Met all graduation requirements set by the public agency (district/charter).
 - (These are the same graduation requirements for all students.)

Graduation Pathways for Students with Disabilities

Criteria for the Ability Diploma Pathway

- Designed for students identified as having a most significant cognitive disability through the Alternate Assessment Addendum review by the IEP team.

Criteria for Classification (All Must Be True)

- Student is eligible for special education and has an IEP.
- Cognitive functioning and adaptive behavior are significantly below age expectations, even with modifications and accommodations (typically about 2.5+ standard deviations below the mean).
- Student requires intensive, repeated, direct individualized instruction and substantial supports to learn and generalize academic, functional, and adaptive skills across settings.
- Student requires substantial modifications to access the general education curriculum.
Student depends on others for daily living needs and is expected to need ongoing support into adulthood.

Graduation Pathways for Students with Disabilities

After Earning an Ability Pathway Diploma

- a. Student may choose to exit high school after receiving the diploma.
- b. Student remains entitled to FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) from the district or charter school.
- c. Student may return to high school until:
 - i. They meet requirements for a Standard Program diploma, or
 - ii. The end of the school year in which they turn 22.

Diploma Status

- a. An Ability Program diploma is not considered a “regular high school diploma” under federal regulations.
- b. It is a state-defined alternate diploma for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities under federal law.

Graduation Pathways for Students with Disabilities

- Do you still have questions about the Ability, Modified, and Standard Pathways?
- Email: special.education@ped.nm.gov

For More Information

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Level All Inc, schedule a demo or
implementation

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Graduate Profile

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