

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

FINANCIAL AID DIVISION

NEW MEXICO
HIGHER EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT



Fostering Student Success from Cradle to Career



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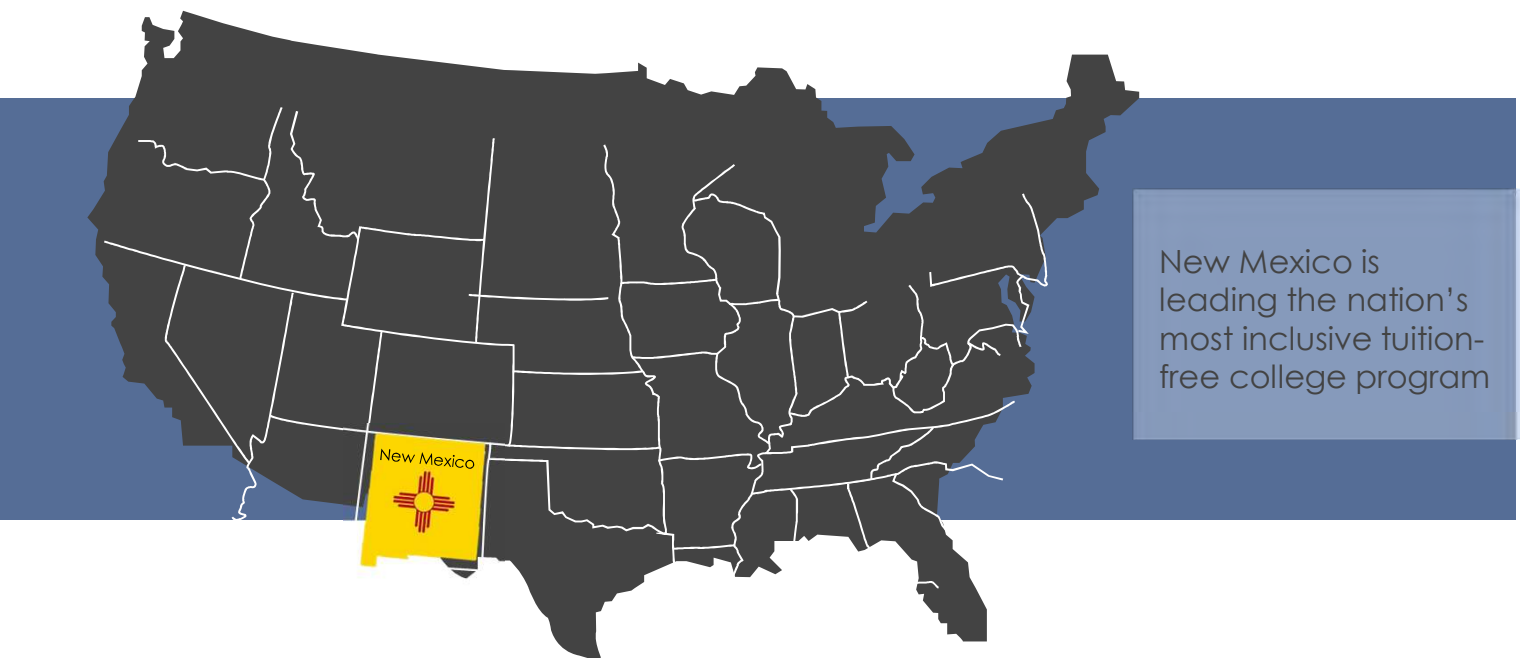


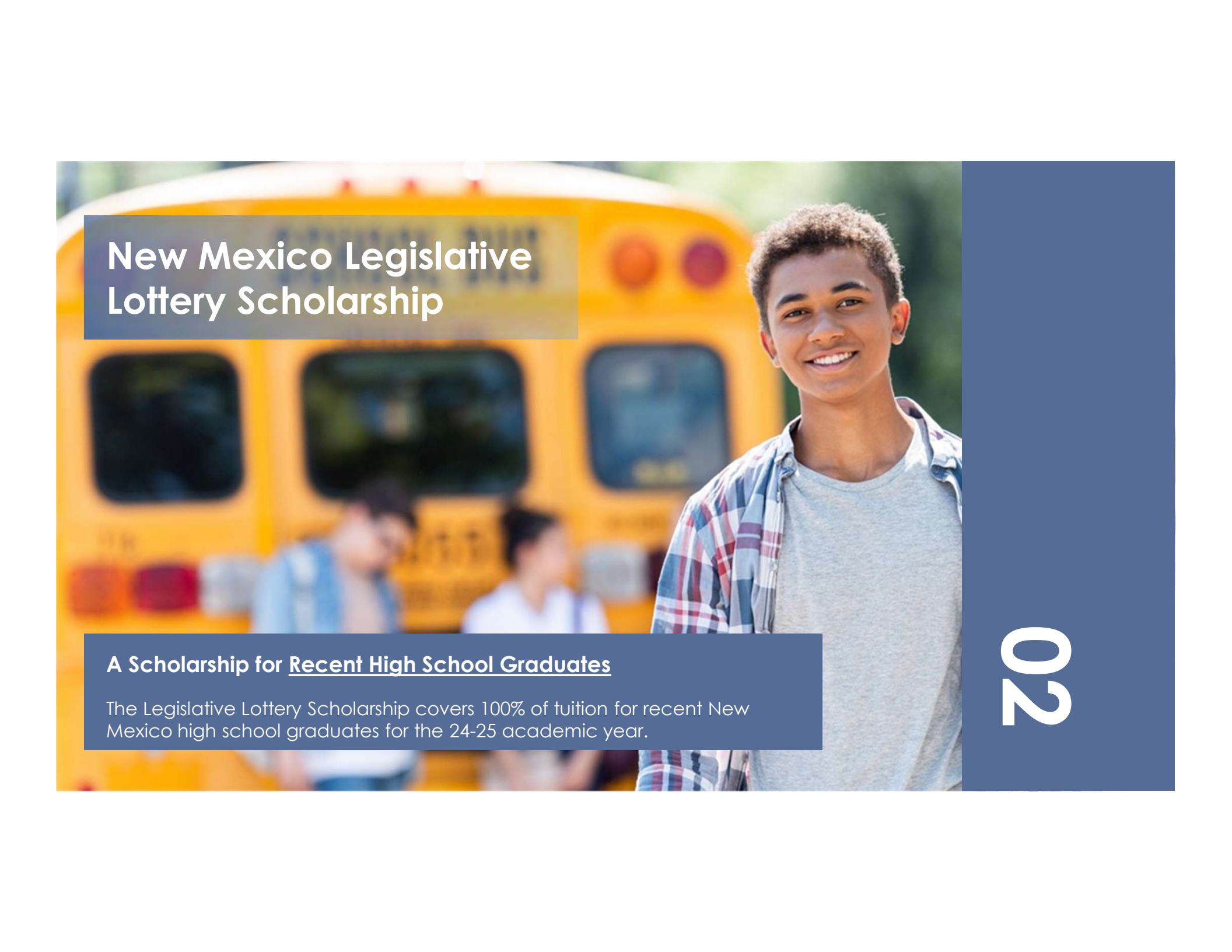
**TUITION FREE
COLLEGE**

01

NEW MEXICO FREE TUITION COLLEGE

New Mexico is leading the nation's most inclusive tuition-free college program



A young man with short, curly hair, wearing a grey t-shirt and a plaid shirt, is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is standing in front of a yellow school bus. In the background, two other people are visible, but they are out of focus. The scene is outdoors with greenery in the background.

New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship

A Scholarship for Recent High School Graduates

The Legislative Lottery Scholarship covers 100% of tuition for recent New Mexico high school graduates for the 24-25 academic year.

02



ELIGIBLE LOTTERY PATHWAY STUDENT



- Residency in New Mexico: Have met residency requirements NMAC 5.7.18
- Graduated: Completion of all required coursework and receipt of a diploma from a public or accredited private high school in New Mexico.
- Home-based or Nonpublic Secondary Educational Program: An educational program that is not administered by the public education system, which may include homeschooling or private education options which is recognized by the state of New Mexico.
- High School Equivalency Credential: A certification that is equivalent to a high school diploma, such as the GED, which is recognized by the state of New Mexico.
- Full-time: A student who is enrolled in 12 credit hours.

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY



First semester eligibility requirements are as follows:



Maintain New Mexico residency as per state requirements after high school graduation or equivalent credential receipt.



Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours at an eligible public postsecondary institution or tribal college in New Mexico. Must successfully complete 12 credit hours by end of first "full-time" semester.



Achieve a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale during the initial semester.



First semester may be covered by Bridge Scholarship/3% funds, other institutional aid or Opportunity Scholarship funding.

16-MONTH GRACE PERIOD



The Legislative Lottery Scholarship has a 16-month grace period after high school graduation.

- If a student enrolls at a non-qualifying institutions may affect eligibility.
- Part-time enrollment may be an option during the 16-month grace period.
- Following the grace period, a minimum enrollment of 12 credit hours is required to initiate the first semester of Lottery Scholarship benefits.

What if student does not enroll full-time once the 16-month grace period expires and continues part-time?

The student has lost eligibility for the Lottery Scholarship. Eligibility for the Opportunity Scholarship requires a two-year waiting period.

CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY



A scholarship may be awarded to a student in their second semester who has met first semester eligibility requirements as follows:



Maintain New Mexico residency as per state requirements.



Successfully completes Initial Semester.



Achieves a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.



Enrolled in required credit hour minimum at a 2-year or 4-year institution.



Student tracking is essential to ensure student meets the academic year requirement.

LOTTERY ENROLLMENT

Initial Enrollment:

First enrolled full-time semester

2-Year Institution: 12 Credit Hours

4-Year Institution: 12 Credit Hours

Continuing Enrollment:

Second semester of full-time enrollment

2-Year Institution: 9-18 Credit Hours

4-Year Institution: 12-18 Credit Hours



SUMMER SEMESTER

In no case shall the Legislative Lottery Scholarship fund more than **three summer semesters**.

A student may enroll between three and nine **credit hours** for summer semesters.

Students may enroll in more than nine credit hours, but the scholarship shall be capped at nine credit hours including accelerated programs.

Summer semesters are not a requirement; provided that the student is not required to attend summer semesters to maintain eligibility or required as part of an accelerated program.

SEMESTER CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY



ACADEMIC YEAR ELIGIBILITY

2-Year Institution:

Student must enroll in at least **9** credit hours in both fall and spring semesters.

4-Year Institution

Student must enroll in at least **12** credit hours in both fall and spring semesters.

Students must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

2-Year Institution:

Student must successfully complete at least **24** credit hours total within the academic year.

4-Year Institution

Student must successfully complete at least **30** credit hours total within the academic year.



12 TO FINISH *Campaign*

- ❑ The "12 to Finish" campaign encourages students at a 2-year university to take 12 credit hours each semester.
- ❑ By doing so, they are more likely to meet the annual requirement of 24 credit hours needed to maintain their lottery Scholarship successfully.
- ❑ A summer semester should be utilized as a last resort to fulfill the annual credit hour requirement.
- ❑ "12 to Finish" promotes timely graduation and enhances student success.

The logo for the "15 TO FINISH Campaign" features the text "15 TO FINISH" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with "Campaign" written in a white, cursive script below it. The text is set against a dark blue, textured brushstroke background.

15 TO FINISH *Campaign*

- ❑ The "15 to Finish" campaign encourages students at a 4-year university to take 15 credit hours each semester.
- ❑ By doing so, students are more likely to meet the annual requirement of 30 credit hours needed to maintain their Legislative Lottery Scholarship successfully.
- ❑ A summer semester should be utilized as a last resort to fulfill the annual credit hour requirement.
- ❑ "15 to Finish" promotes timely graduation and enhances student success.



OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

A Scholarship for Returning Student Learners

The Opportunity Scholarship covers 100% of tuition and course specific fees for returning student learners for the 24-25 academic year.

03



OPPORTUNITY 100% TUITION ELIGIBILITY



A scholarship may be awarded to a Returning Student Learner who:

- Is not a Recent Graduate Learner.
- Has not earned a bachelor's, master's degree or doctoral degree at the time the scholarship is awarded.
- Has established and maintained New Mexico residency or is an active member of the New Mexico National Guard.
- Must enroll in a minimum of 6 credit hours per spring and fall semester (no minimum in the final semester before graduation). Tuition over 18 credit hours is not covered by the scholarship.
- May enroll in 3-9 credit hours per summer semester (optional); provided that a student is not required to attend a summer semester to maintain eligibility.
- Maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

CREDIT HOUR CAP

2-Year Institution:

90 attempted credit hours for the completion of **one** associate degree.

4-Year Institution:

160 attempted credit hours for the completion of **one** bachelor's degree.

WORKFORCE CERTIFICATE

- A scholarship may be awarded for one or more workforce certificates.
- Student(s) with a bachelor's degree does not qualify for the Opportunity Scholarship award.
- A student may receive an Opportunity Scholarship award for multiple credit-bearing certificates, provided that each certificate is high demand (CIP) as determined by the Higher Education Department in consultation with Workforce Solutions Department.
- There is no credit hour requirement on approved certificates.

A background image showing the silhouettes of a group of graduates on a hill at sunset, with many caps being thrown into the air. The scene is captured in a dark, moody color palette of purples and blues.

TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

Guiding students to maximize dual credit opportunities can significantly accelerate their college education.

04

TRANSITION TO COLLEGE



Credit Transfer Process



Educate students about the steps involved in transferring dual credits to their selected college, including required documentation and deadlines.

Orientation Programs



Encourage participation in college orientation programs and early advising sessions to facilitate the transition from high school to college.

THANK YOU!

Does anyone have any questions?

Financial Aid Division

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RESOURCE LINKS

New Mexico Higher Education Department: <https://hed.nm.gov/>

Reach Higher New Mexico: <https://www.reachhighernm.com/>



Main HED Webpage



Reach Higher
New Mexico Webpage