

Overview

- Introduction
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Introduction

During the 2024 legislative session, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed [House Bill 171, School Graduation Requirements](#), updating high school graduation requirements for the first time in over a decade, with changes becoming effective for students entering ninth grade in the 2025-2026 school year.

The new requirements include the successful completion of a minimum of 24 units aligned to the state academic content and performance standards.

Key Changes

CTE and WBL

Department-approved work-based learning, and career technical in the core content areas of English, mathematics, and science.

Removal of Requirements

- Removal of Algebra 2 as a requirement, although it must still be offered as a mathematics course.
- Removal of the required Advanced Placement®, honors, dual credit or distance learning units, although a student's opportunity to take these courses shall not be affected.

Credits Prior to High School

Units prior to enrolling in high school that shall satisfy unit requirements to earn a New Mexico diploma of excellence include:

Health, Algebra 1, and Geometry

Key Changes

Student Choice

- Electives shall include a two-unit pathway of concentration of the student's choice in a language other than English, including American Sign Language (ASL); fine arts; health; military career preparation; career technical education, community or service learning, capstone courses, work-based learning courses;
- Provided that financial literacy and computer science shall be offered as electives.

LEA Choice

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

Demonstration of Competency

Removal of the state required demonstrations of competency in five core subject areas (i.e., mathematics, reading and language arts, writing, social studies, and science). Although high school students must still participate in the state's required Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) assessments, the additional requirement of demonstrating competency in five core subject

Next Step Plans (NSP)

- Next Step Plans are currently required for all students in grades 8-12 by **PED Rule**
- PED does not have a dedicated staff member to verify student completion of Next Step Plans annually
- NSPs are spot-checked by bureaus during monitoring visits (CCRB does this through Perkins Monitoring)
- Currently, every School District and High School in New Mexico could have a different version of a NSP, and many do
- There is no continuity or uniformity between schools when a student transfers and often NSPs do not make it into the cumulative folder

HB 171 and Next Step Plans

HB171 was signed into law in 2024 and updates New Mexico's Graduation credit requirements, requires a District created Graduate Profile, and a Next Step plan for all students beginning with Freshman in 2025 and beyond

Each year's Next Step Plan (Interim NSP) aligns with the District's approved graduate profile and is completed on a PED approved template

The Final Next Step Plan shall be completed during the senior year and before graduation and defines a students plans for after graduation

Additionally, NSPs ensure students are reasonably informed about course options including AP, IB, DC, career clusters and pathways, pre-apprenticeship programs and remediation opportunities



Level All

Level All Introduction

NMPED and Level All Next Step Plan

School Name | Next Step Plan | Student Name | State ID #

Next Step Plan

Student information

Name: <input type="text" value="Student Name"/>	School Name: <input type="text" value="School Name"/>
State ID #: <input type="text" value="State ID #"/>	High School Entry Date: MM/YY Target Graduation Date: MM/YY
Student Email: <input type="text"/>	Degree Type: --
Date of Birth: MM/DD/YY Age: XX	Grade Level (Entering): <input checked="" type="text" value="X"/> th Date Updated: MM/YY
Advisor/Counselor: <input type="text"/>	Select all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> 504 <input type="checkbox"/> IEP <input type="checkbox"/> ELL <input type="checkbox"/> SAT

Brag sheet

Extracurricular and Leadership Highlights	Hobbies and Interests	Internship, Work-Based Learning, and Apprenticeship Experience
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Goals Include a link to your copy of the [goal setting worksheet](#) and the goal for the grade you are entering.

Link to My Copy of the Goal Setting Worksheet	Post-Graduation/Career Goal
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Full-Time <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Year Training <input type="checkbox"/> Work Part-Time <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Year Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Enter the Military <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Year Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>replace with other path</i>
My Goal for <input type="text" value="X"/> th Grade	Notes
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Family and Community Support Systems	Career Goal:
<input type="text"/>	High School Career Cluster:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Attachments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Interest inventory <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment results <input type="checkbox"/> Final Next Step Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Transcript <input type="checkbox"/> Semester schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Degree requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Transition assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry certification <input type="checkbox"/> Course credit check <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

School Name | Next Step Plan | Student Name | State ID #

4-Year High School Credit Mapping

Learn more about [creating a 4-year plan and your high school graduation requirements](#) on Level All.

Make sure to review your [AP Potential report](#) if applicable.

- PSAT/NMSQT 10th grade reports for AP Potential should be reviewed when choosing classes for 11th grade.
- All PSAT/SAT exams will produce an AP Potential report and should be considered when registering for classes.

	9TH GRADE		10TH GRADE		11TH GRADE		12TH GRADE	
	Course Name	Code	Course Name	Code	Course Name	Code	Course Name	Code
State of New Mexico Graduation Requirements								
Mathematics								
English Language Arts								
Social Studies								
Science								
Physical Education								
Cluster/Workplace/Language								
Health Education								
School District Graduation Requirements								
[School District Req.]								
[School District Req.]								
Career Pathway Requirements/Electives								
[Career Req/Elective]								
[Career Req/Elective]								
[Career Req/Elective]								
General Electives								
[Elective]								
[Elective]								
[Elective]								

Codes: AP = Advanced Placement | DL = Distance Learning | IB = International Baccalaureate |
DC = Dual Credit | HC = Honors Course | OC = Online Class | Other:

Questions?

Email:

PED.Assessment@ped.nm.gov for assessment related questions.

Grad.Questions@ped.nm.gov for high school graduation coursework questions.

OSE.Support@ped.nm.gov for ability program of study questions.

benjamin.lukoski@ped.nm.gov for Next Step Plan questions

