

# Graduation Requirements

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## Presenters



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# 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.**

## **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.**

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 \(Non-Discretionary Waivers\)](#)

# Interim Next Step Plan (NSP) Timeline Subsection C

## 8th Grade

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

## 9th Grade

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

## 10th Grade

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

## 11th Grade

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.

# 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*

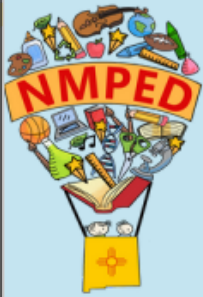
#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1 UNIT

#### 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.

# Additional Resources












**NEW MEXICO**  
Public Education Department  
**ACADEMIC COUNSELING**  
TIMELINE

 <b>JULY STUDENT SCHEDULES</b>	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.	 <b>AUGUST SENIOR FINAL NSP</b>
 <b>SEPTEMBER JUNIOR NSP</b>	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.	 <b>OCTOBER NINE WEEKS GRADES</b>
 <b>NOVEMBER PRE REGISTRATION PREP</b>	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.	 <b>DECEMBER END OF SEMESTER/EARLY GRADS</b>
 <b>JANUARY FRESHMAN &amp; SOPHOMORE NSP</b>	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.	 <b>FEBRUARY REGISTRATION PREP</b>
 <b>MARCH NINE WEEKS GRADES</b>	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.	 <b>APRIL MASTER SCHEDULE</b>
 <b>MAY FINALIZE NSPs / GRADE CHECKS</b>	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.	 <b>JUNE TRANSCRIPT AUDIT</b>

Toolkit to be released soon.

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

**NEW MEXICO**  
Public Education Department  
**GOAL GRADUATION: GRADE 12**  
TIMELINE

 <b>JULY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS &amp; TRANSCRIPTS</b>	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.	 <b>AUGUST TRANSCRIPT AUDIT SHEET &amp; CLASS SCHEDULE</b>
 <b>SEPTEMBER GRADES &amp; SUPPORT / SAT &amp; ACT</b>	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.	 <b>OCTOBER POST GRADUATION GOALS</b>
 <b>NOVEMBER COLLEGE APPLICATIONS</b>	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.	 <b>DECEMBER GRADE REVIEW</b>
 <b>JANUARY TRANSCRIPT AUDIT SHEET &amp; CLASS SCHEDULE</b>	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.	 <b>FEBRUARY GRADES &amp; SUPPORT</b>
 <b>MARCH STATE TESTING</b>	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.	 <b>APRIL GRADUATION CHECK</b>
 <b>MAY GRADUATION</b>	



# 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 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 Pathways for Students with Disabilities

## Modified Diploma Pathway:

- The **Modified Pathway** in New Mexico high schools was removed starting with the 2025 to 2026 school year due to changes in graduation requirements mandated by House Bill 171, which was signed into law by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.
- This law modernizes high school graduation requirements by eliminating the Algebra II requirement and focusing on flexibility in course offerings, including career and technical education.
- These changes aim to better align graduation expectations with the state's workforce and higher education needs, while providing more options for students, particularly those with disabilities, to pursue their interests and career goals.
- This pathway is only an option for students who entered ninth grade during the 2025 to 2026 school year or earlier. A student's cohort is based upon the school year they entered high school.

# Graduation Pathways for Students with Disabilities

## Criteria for the Standard Diploma Pathway

### Standard Program of Study (Diploma of Excellence)

- Special education student must meet or exceed all graduation requirements under the New Mexico Standards for Excellence.
- Requirements can be met with or without reasonable accommodations in instruction and assessment.
- Student must also meet all standard graduation requirements set by the school district or charter school.

### After earning a diploma

- A student who earns a diploma through the Standard Program of Study is no longer entitled to receive FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) from the district or charter school.

# 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

## Ability Diploma Pathway Cannot Be Classified Based Solely On:

- Disability classification
- Below-grade-level academic achievement
- Expected or performance on general assessments
- Anticipated impact of scores on accountability systems
- Anticipated disruptive behavior during general assessments
- Poor attendance
- English learner status
- Need for accommodations to participate in general assessments

# 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](mailto: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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