

Graduation Requirements LESC Subcommittee Workshop

October 5, 2021

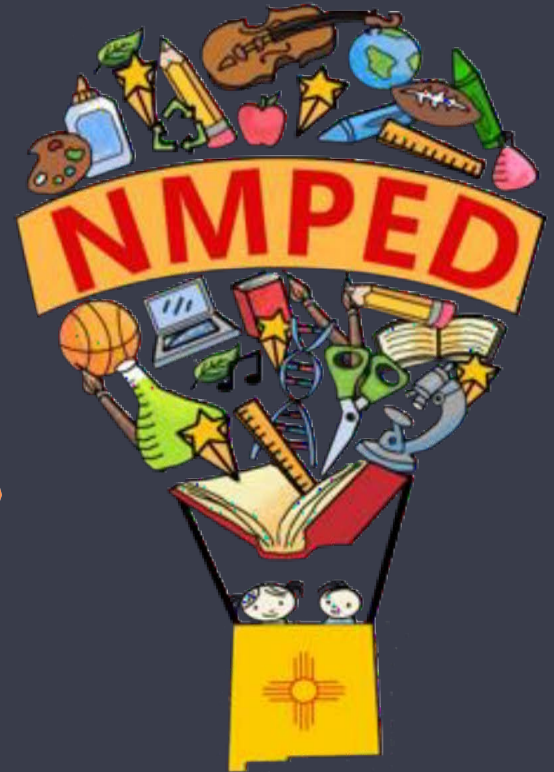
Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary

Lynn Vasquez, Director

Yanira Vazquez, Director

Elaine Perea, PhD, Director

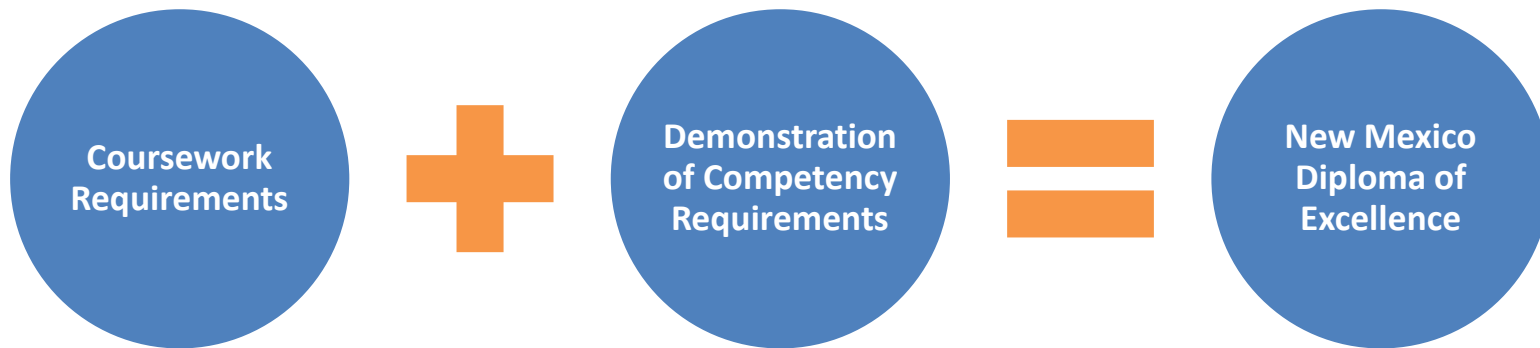
Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.



Presentation Overview

- ❑ Defining the Issue and PED Recommendations
- ❑ Assessment Considerations
- ❑ Course Considerations

Current Graduation Requirements



New Mexico Statute 22-13-1.1

New Mexico Administrative Code 6.19.7 and 6.29.1.9

Martinez and Yazzie v. State of New Mexico

Judge Singleton's ruling included a directive that the state take immediate steps to "ensure teaching is tailored to the unique cultural and linguistic needs of students, including English-language learners and indigenous communities."

Three major limitations with current graduation policy.

1. Restrictive Course Requirements

- Current course requirements restrict the options students have on their way to graduation
- Current requirements minimize options for students in preparation for their post graduation endeavors
- Restrictive options limit school's ability to serve the unique cultural and linguistic needs of students

2. Mandatory “Electives”

- Students are engaged in school when they are interested in their classes and see them as important to their future, and when they feel they belong in school.
- Engaged students have good attendance, come to class prepared, and are able to navigate daily challenges in and out of school.
- Current graduation requirements include complex checklists of unrelated choices.

3. A Long List of Exams

- Requiring a set of graduation exams is contrary to the recommendations of several major research organizations
- Offering a menu of assessment options might appear to be fair, but these options cannot be technically compared in a valid manner
- Standardized assessments do not measure dispositions that many New Mexico communities value: critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, civic-mindedness, etc.

LESC analysis of top 15 states found high variability

- NM requires more units than many other states
- NM requires more elective units in a student's schedule than many other states

A strong education system is more than the sum of its parts and what is most crucial is that components reinforce one another.

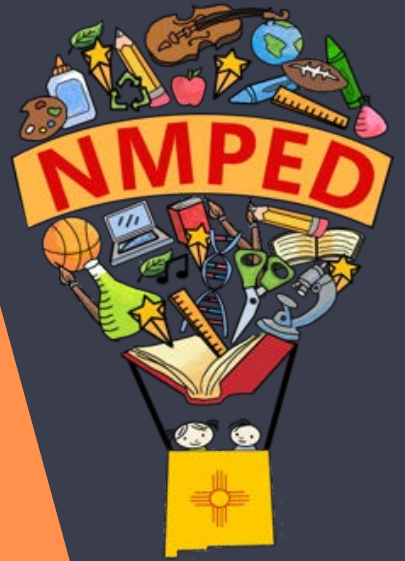
(NCEE Blueprint for a High-Performing Education System)

Proposed Solution

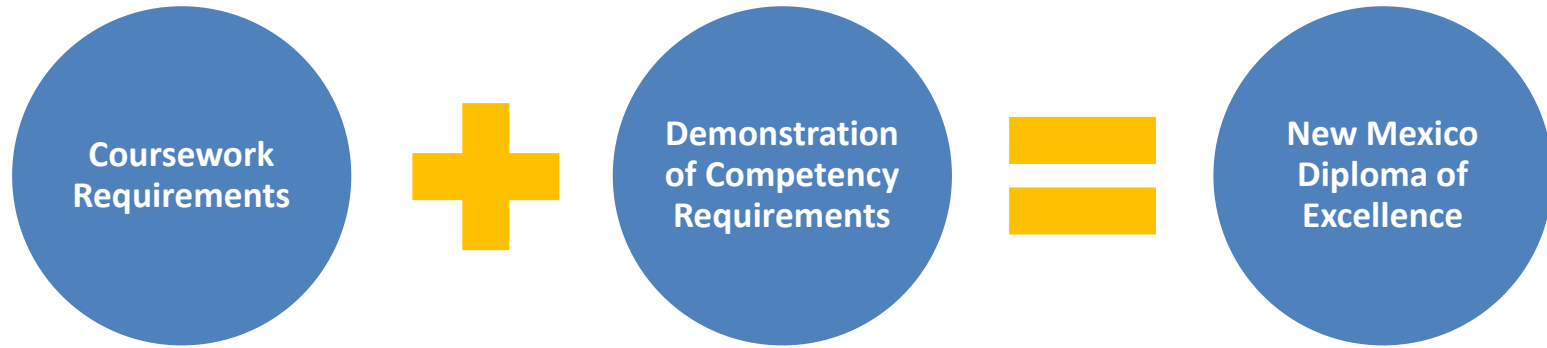
- ❑ Update New Mexico's graduation requirements to:
 - Allow students space to develop their interests
 - Make competency the foundation of every class
 - Encourage local communities to develop graduate profiles
 - Promote community engagement by offering capstone projects

Updating Graduation Requirements to meet ALL Student's Needs

Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary



Graduation Requirements



New Mexico Statute 22-13-1.1

New Mexico Administrative Code 6.19.7 and 6.29.1.9

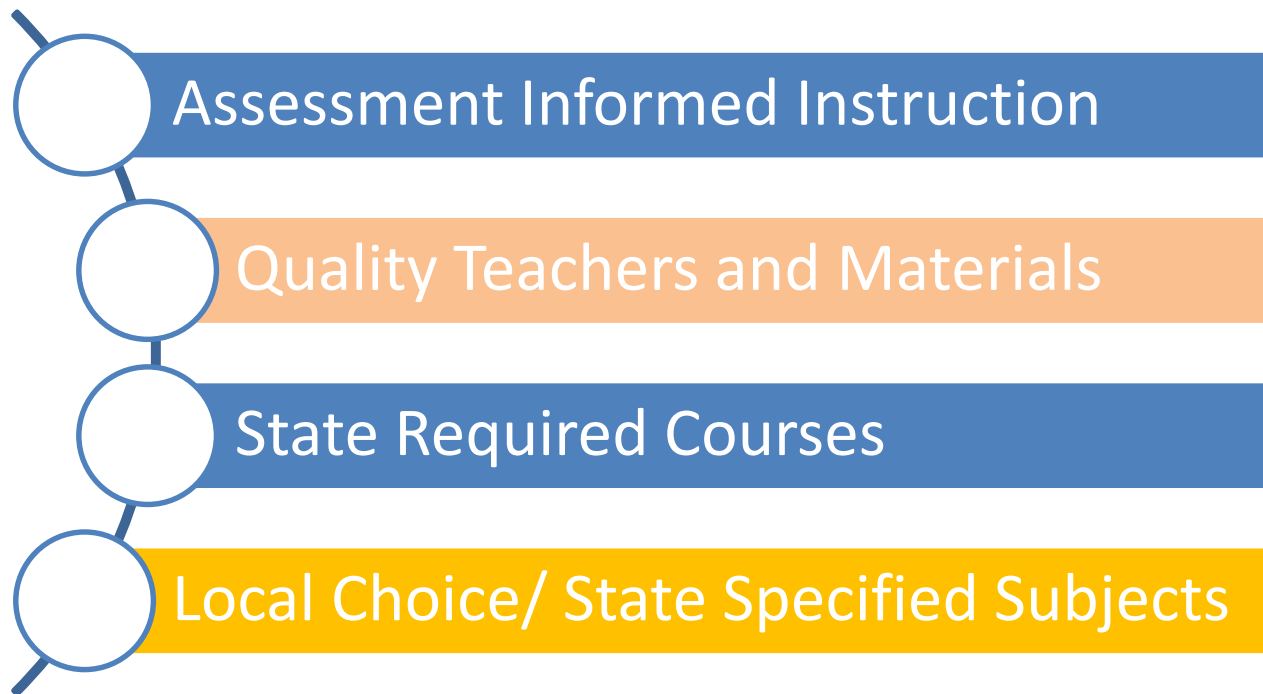
Graduation Requirements



Equitable Access to College

ALL STUDENTS
must take college entrance exam
(or suitable replacement assessment for
SPED and EL)

Tenets for Change



Components of EVERY Required Course



4 Mathematics Units

Non-negotiable courses	Coursework Options	Pathway Substitutions
Algebra I	Computer Science A	Architecture CTE Concentration
Geometry	Comp Science Principles	STEM CTE Concentration
OR	Algebra II	Finance CTE Concentration
Integrated Pathway: Math I	Algebra II/Trig	IT CTE Concentration
Integrated Pathway: Math II	Probability and Statistics	Manufacturing CTE Concentration
	Applied Math	Transportation CTE Concentration
	Fractal Mathematics	Set Design POS
	Integrated Pathway: Math III	
	Mathematical Modeling	
	AP and IB courses in Math	
	Dual Credit College Level Math	

4 Language Units*

Non-negotiable courses	Coursework Options	
ELA 1 /ELA-ELD I	ELA 4 /ELA-ELD IV	
ELA 2 /ELA-ELD II	Literacy Ready	
ELA 3 /ELA-ELD III	Research/Technical Writing	
	Creative Writing	
	Journalism	
	Communications	
	Debate	
	World Language levels 2+	
	English Learner Development	
	AP and IB courses in Language Arts	
	Dual Credit College Level Language	

*** with major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature**

4 Science Units

Non-negotiable courses	Coursework Options	Pathway Substitutions
2 Laboratory Sciences	Core Science codes	Health CTE Concentrator
	Computer Science A	STEM CTE Concentrator
	Computer Science Principles	Agriculture CTE Concentrator
	Scientific Technologies	
	Health Science	
	AP and IB courses in Science	
	Dual Credit College Level Science	
	Dual Credit College Level Computer Science	

4 Social Studies Units

Non-negotiable courses	Coursework Options	Pathway Substitutions
US History & Geography	0.5 U.S. Government	Community Learning w/ Capstone
World History & Geography	0.5 N.M. History	Business CTE Concentration
	0.5 Civics	Government CTE Concentration
	Economics & Financial Literacy	Law & Safety CTE Concentration
	AP and IB courses in Social Studies	Teacher Education POS
	Dual Credit College Level History	
	Dual Credit College Level Social Science	

8 Elective Units

Non-negotiable courses	Coursework Options
2 Unit Pathway Concentration	any offered academic course
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports	any offered holistic course
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• World Language	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fine Arts	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Military	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CTE program	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Learning w/ Capstone	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 units of Work Based Learning	All Dual Credit College Level Courses

Proposed Current Requirements Eliminated

Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, Online, or Honors	Career Cluster, Workplace Readiness, or language other than English	Physical Education
Algebra II	NM History	Health
Financial Literacy	Civics	Media Literacy

Assessment Considerations

Assessment and
Learning Management Systems Division
Lynn Vasquez, Director



Demonstration of Competency Requirements



Demonstration of
Competency
Requirements
(Assessments)

- A standardized measure in five content areas:
 - Math
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Science
 - Social studies

Historical Context: Demonstration of Competency

Prior to 2019

- New Mexico required students to use the annual spring state assessment (SBA, PARCC, etc) as a **primary demonstration of competency**
- District and Charters had to request a waiver from the PED to use an **alternative demonstration of competency**.



Multiple attempts model
but high cost & high stress



2019 to Present

Students may now choose from a **menu of options** to demonstrate competency; all options are “**equivalent**” demonstrations of competencies.



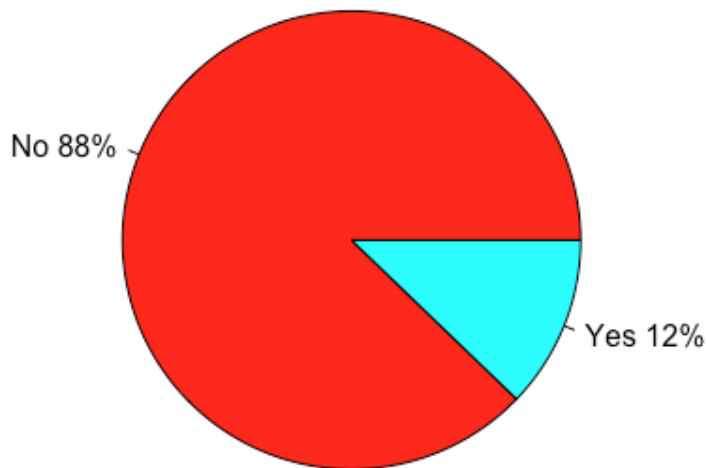
Leveling model but
inappropriate equivalencies

The image shows two versions of a document titled "COHORT 2021 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS Menu of Options to Demonstrate College and/or Career Readiness" and "COHORT 2022 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS Menu of Options to Demonstrate College and/or Career Readiness". Both documents are from the NM PED (New Mexico Public Education Department) and were revised in 2020. They outline the requirements for students to demonstrate competency for graduation. The documents are structured into sections: "ESSENTIAL REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS", "OTHER DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCY", and "OTHER NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS". The "OTHER DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCY" section is further divided into "LOCAL DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCY (LDC)" and "INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT OPTION". The "OTHER NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS" section lists various standardized tests and assessments that can be used to demonstrate competency. The documents also include a section for "ESSENTIAL REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS" which lists the state assessments (SBA, PARCC, etc.) that are required for graduation. The documents are presented in a clear, organized manner with a blue header and a white background.

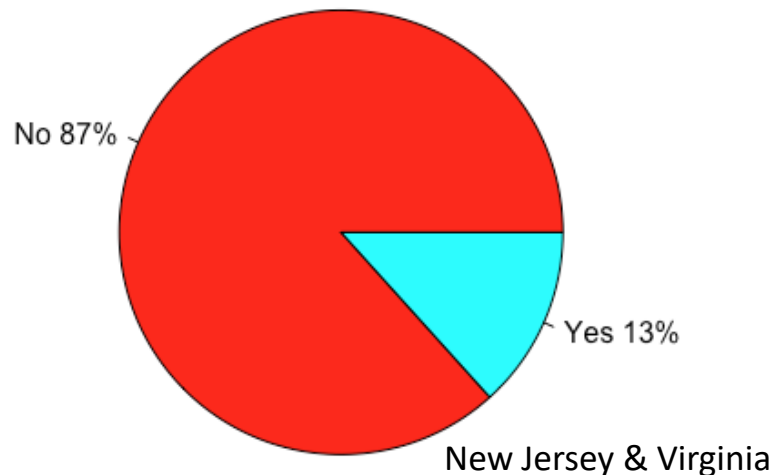
<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/college-career-readiness/graduation/>

Survey of States on Exit Exam to Graduate

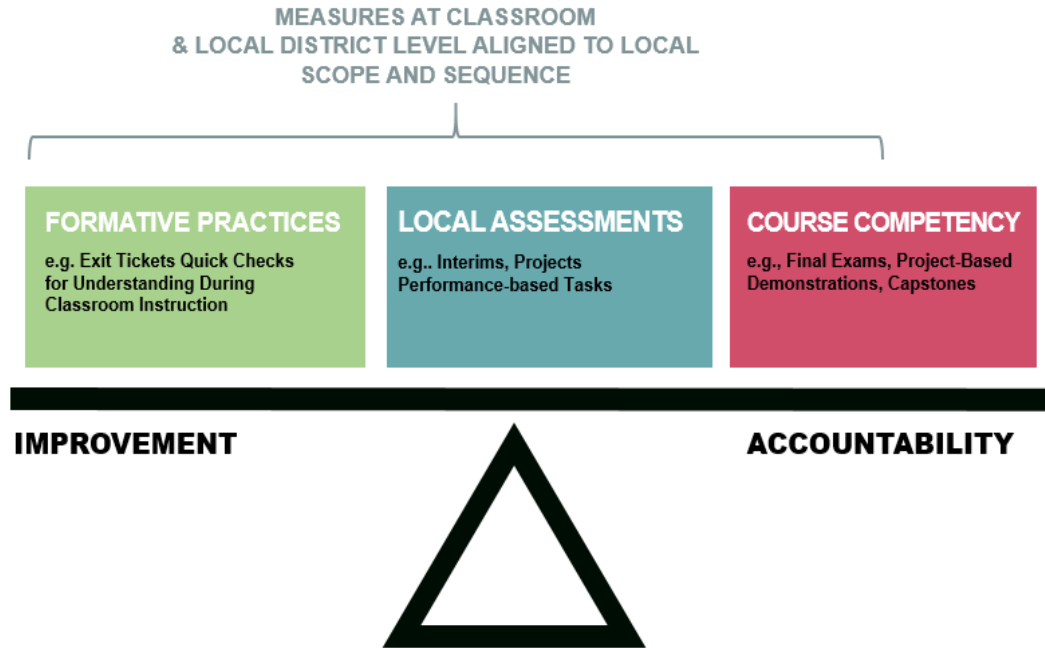
States Requiring a Graduation Exam



Top 15 Education States Requiring a Graduation Exam



Shifting Demonstration of Competency



What might happen if we made this change?

- ☐ More Timely
- ☐ More Culturally Responsive
- ☐ Less Constrained
- ☐ Less Expensive

Capstone projects as an assessment alternative

18 month grant to define and pilot new assessment alternatives

- Senior capstone exhibitions
- Community development of graduate profile
- PED workgroups re-envisioned capstones as a course

Schools and districts that piloted the senior capstone requirements in 2021 included:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • ACE Leadership | • Santa Fe Public Schools |
| • Amy Biehl High School | • Siembra Leadership |
| • Cuba Independent School District | • South Valley Academy |
| • Farmington Municipal Schools | • Vista Grande HS |
| • Health Leadership | • Zuni Public Schools |

Assessment Breakout Activity



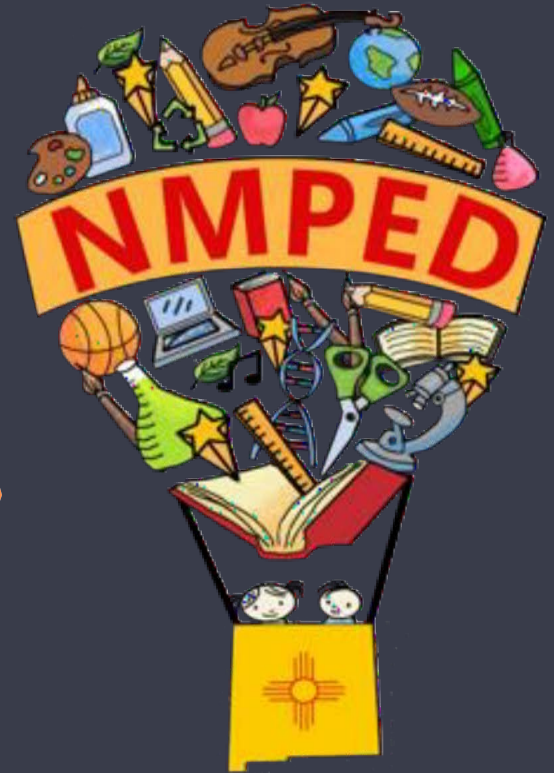
Activity 1: Assessment Breakout Discussion

1. You will receive a handout with a table titled “What is the Role of Assessments?”
2. Fill out the chart on your own. (5 minutes)
3. After 5 minutes, LESC staff will notify you to find a talking partner to briefly discuss your responses. (5 minutes)
4. We will then do a subcommittee share out. (10 minutes)

High School Core Academic Courses Considerations

Math and Science Bureau
Yanira Vazquez, Director

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Current Coursework Requirements

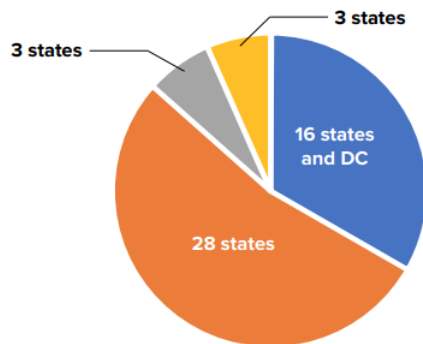
Courses	Credits Required
Math in high school (one of which shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of Algebra II)	4 credits
English with major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing, and literature	4 credits
Science	3 credits
U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, government and economics and N.M. History (0.5 credit)	3.5 credits
Physical education	1 credit
Career cluster course, workplace readiness, or a language other than English	1 credit
Electives that meet department content and performance standard	7.5 credits
Health	1 course

Current Trends – Mathematics Education

- A recent 50-state policy scan found that 29 states recommend, but do not require, Algebra 2 for high school graduation. ([Achieve, 2020](#))
- Some postsecondary institutions continue to require Algebra 2 for admission, making it the most common third credit math option. ([ERDC, 2020](#); [ECS, 2020](#))
- There is strong evidence that students can succeed in rigorous college level math without being proficient in Algebra 2. ([ECS, 2020](#))

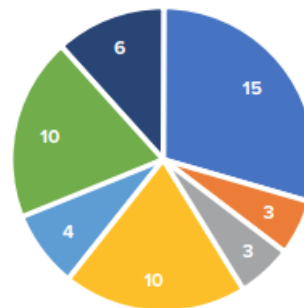
Mathematics by State

Required Math Credits



Four credits Three credits Two credits No state course requirements for mathematics

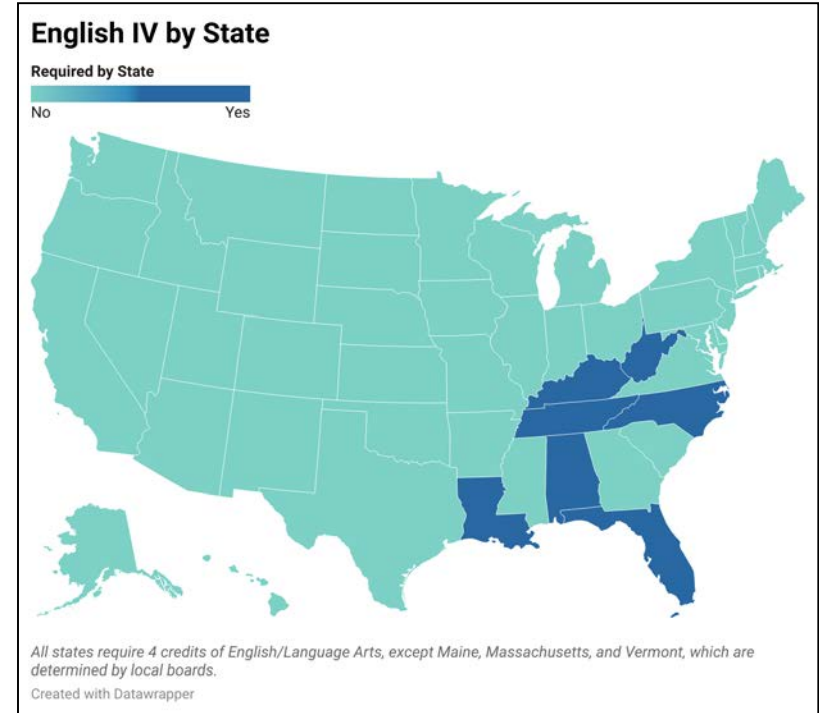
Highest Level Math Course by States



No course content specified Concepts, not courses specified Algebra I Geometry
Algebra II or substitute (not equivalent) Algebra II/Integrated Math III Algebra II/Integrated Math III or equivalent

English Language Arts by State

- Forty-seven states require four credits of English Language Arts
- Local school boards in three states determine requirements
- Only seven states require English I through IV as courses
 - Others allow various course combinations or individual courses



World language and/or English requirements

Major national research indicates 2 or more years of “foreign” language are critical for developing critical thinking skills

- 2 in a single language Center for American Progress 2018
- 3 National Center for Educational Statistics 2001
- 2 or more U.S. Department of Education 2006
- 2 State Scholars Initiative 2005
- Linguistically Responsive Education is an essential component as we consider the needs of the identified groups in Yazzie Martinez

Science in New Mexico

- Next Gen Science Standards includes important constructs throughout the curricula
 - Engineering
 - Computer and Media Literacy
- Computer Science and Health are options for science credit
- Almost all states specify some laboratory courses

HS Science Enrollment SY 2020-2021

Course Name	Students Enrolled
Biology/Life Science	24,095
Chemistry	19,556
Physics	10,578
Other Courses	
Environmental Science	5,328
Anatomy & Physiology	2,158

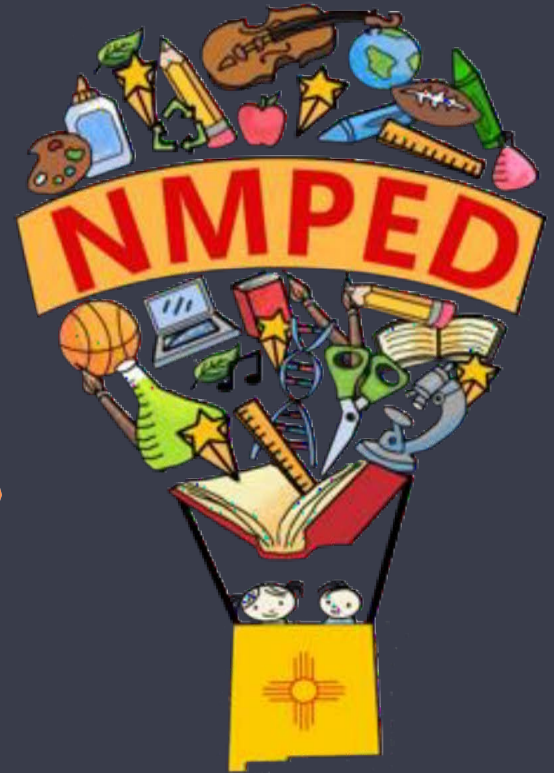
Social Studies

- Few states require courses in state-specific history courses
- Financial literacy is often integrated into economics courses in social studies (instead of math)
 - States include: AL, AR, AZ, CO, NC, NH, FL & WV
- Standards are also an important part of how we influence the specific information students learn



High School Elective Courses Considerations

College and Career Readiness Bureau
Elaine Perea, Director



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The Purpose of Electives ... Student Choice and Voice

How do...

- cultural and linguistically relevant courses,
- hands-on experiential learning,
- in-depth career exploration, and
- work-based learning

...fit into graduation requirements?

Remember when...

Physical Education & Health

1 unit of:

**Interscholastic Sports,
JROTC, or
Marching Band**

AND

**1 *course* in health, in
middle or high school**

- States with no requirement
 - Arizona, Maine, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Wyoming
 - Colorado, Pennsylvania (local)
 - Idaho (.5 health only)
- States with higher requirements
 - California, Louisiana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia 2 units
 - Massachusetts – K-12, New Jersey 3 units
- Other Interesting ideas
 - Kansas 1 unit covers physiology, safety, first aid
 - Vermont proficiency based PE & health

Available Elective Units	7.5
Sports or Music	4
Second Year of Language	1
Fourth Year of Science	1
CTE Completer	3

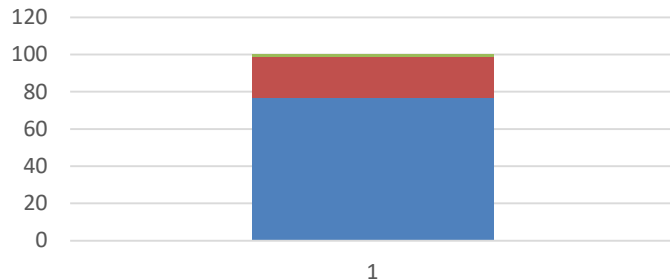
CTE Completion Increases Graduation Rates *but* Access is Limited

1 unit of

Career Cluster,

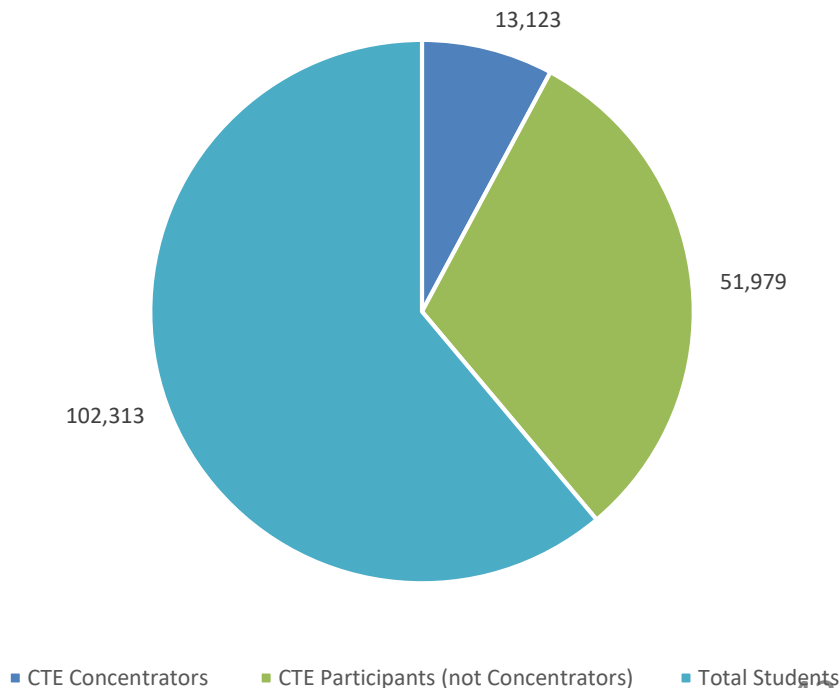
Workplace Readiness, or
Language other than English.

19-20 Grad Rate



19-20 CTE Grad Rate 98.6%

19-20 CTE Participation



Other States Focus on CTE as a requirement

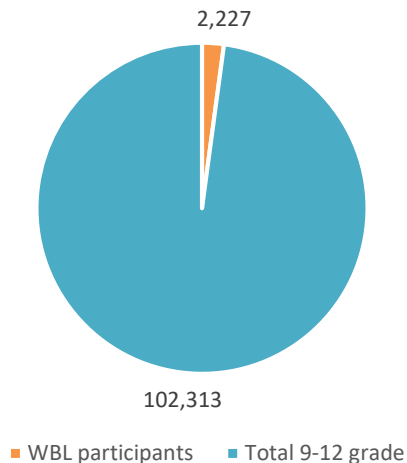
- At least 12 states offer an endorsement, seal, or special diploma
- Several states require a certain number of electives to be “career focused” or “aligned with students’ post-high school plans.”
- At least two states allow students to replace one of the five required competency exams with a comparably rigorous technical, arts or other assessment, as defined and approved by the state.

<https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/CTE-StateGradRequirementsFINAL.pdf>

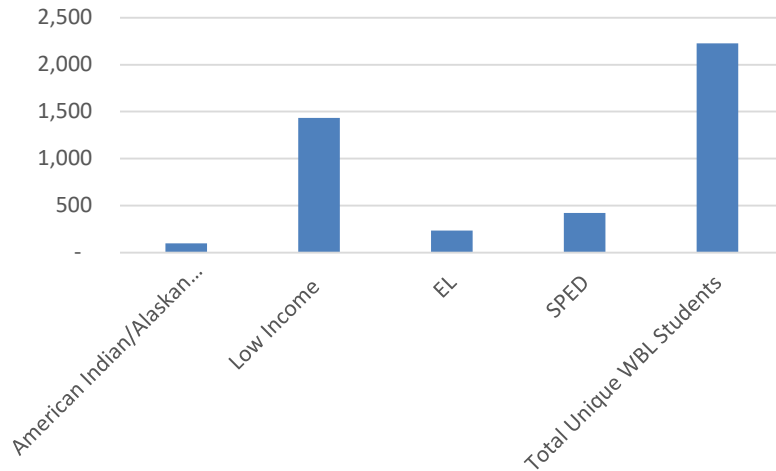
Only 2% of students have access to Work Based Learning

Workplace Readiness Courses

Access to Work Based Learning (SY19-20)



WBL participants (SY19-20)



Biliteracy As a Valued Asset in New Mexico

State Seal of Bilingualism Biliteracy (SSBB)

Students can earn the seal by:

- Tribal certification
- 4 units of credit and a national assessment
- 4 units of credit and a portfolio
- National assessment and a portfolio

5% of
2019-20 Graduates
(1,005 students)

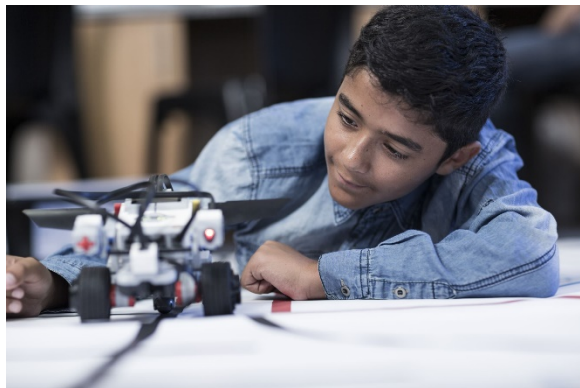
More Requirements ... a College Prep Course

1 unit of:

- Honors,
- Advanced Placement,
- Dual Credit, or
- Online

Pre-pandemic – This requirement drove dual credit enrollment

Pandemic Era – Online is now a fact of life for most high school students



Coursework Activity





Activity 2: Next Step Plan

1. You will receive a handout of a Next Step Plan.
2. You are free to work solo or find a partner to begin to review the Next Step Plan and formulate questions about it (10 minutes). You are welcome to begin to try to fill out the plan from the perspective of a high school student or to simply review the document.
3. After 10 minutes, LESC staff will bring the group together for a share out.



Activity 2: Next Step Plan

4. Some guiding questions to consider as you review the plan:

- What resources and information would a student need to effectively complete a Next Step Plan?
- Who might a student need support from?
- How might a student fit their desired career trajectory in with course requirements?
- Does this plan provide a useful roadmap or process for students?

Questions/Discussion

