



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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HANNA SKANDERA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

October 6, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Directors

FROM: Hanna Skandera, Secretary of Education 

RE: 2015 Graduation Requirements

To confirm, and per the request of many superintendents and districts, the flexibility that has been available at the district level through existing regulation (NMAC 6.19.7.10) remains in place for the cohort of 2015. This means that in addition to state approved Alternate Demonstration of Competency (ADC) options districts can continue to offer district ADC options as well¹.

For the class of 2015, there are no changes to the course or competency requirements for graduation.

In order to graduate, students in the class of 2015 must meet all graduation requirements (course and competency) by August 1, 2015.

All district ADC options available to students must be rigorous, aligned to standards, and uniform across individual districts. In addition, it is essential that districts effectively communicate those requirements with students and parents.

Within the next week, we ask that you:

- Share this information with high school principals, guidance counselors, and district administrators responsible for graduation requirements.
- Clearly articulate for school staff who in each district can answer questions regarding district approved ADC options.

Similar to our requests in spring and summer 2014, PED is still interested in gathering your input to inform options as we look to future cohorts and an amended regulation regarding graduation. By November 15, please send any examples of district ADC options from your individual district that could be considered for state-wide implementation to Leighann Lenti at Leighann.Lenti@state.nm.us.

For questions regarding **course graduation requirements**, contact Eric Spencer at Eric.Spencer@state.nm.us.
For questions regarding **competency graduation requirements**, contact Joslyn Overby at Joslyn.Overby@state.nm.us.
Please note: any questions received about district-specific ADC options will be referred directly to the individual district.

¹ Legislation adopted in 2008 (NMSA 1978, Section 22-13-1.1) specified that in addition to passing required courses, students must show competency in mathematics, reading and language arts, writing, social studies, and science.