NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:

DISTANCE LEARNING CERTIFICATIONS

Public Education Department Requirements

By the end of the 2028-2029 school year and at least every five years thereafter, the Distance Learning Act requires the Public Education Department to evaluate full-time distance learning programs to certify compliance with the Public School Code and related rules.

Program Noncompliance

The department may withhold up to 100 percent of funding for distance learning students until an approvable plan for compliance has been submitted.

CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

Cross-agency teams conduct:

- Desktop audits
- Observations of instruction
- Interviews with principals, teachers, students, and families

FULL-TIME DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

For purposes of certification, distance learning (DL) programs include:

1) more than 3 percent of the student population and more than 19 students; or
2) more than 50 students.

School Districts, Charter Schools with a Distance Learning Program (15)	DL Students **
Albuquerque Public Schools	1,372
Albuquerque Talent Development Academy	94
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	63
Chama Municipal Schools*	908
Gallup-McKinley County Schools*	820
Grants Cibola County Schools	69
House Municipal Schools	21
Las Cruces Public Schools*	744
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	--
Logan Municipal Schools	42
Mosquero Municipal Schools*	38
New Mexico Connections Academy	1,500
Pecos Cyber Academy*	2,152
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	1,539
Taos Academy	22
TOTAL	9,384

*Program is part of the first cohort of schools going through the DL certification process.

**Preliminary, uncertified, 40-day data

Certification Criteria	
Component	**Minimum**
Appropriate license and endorsement	All distance learning teaching staff are appropriately licensed and endorsed
English learners	Appropriate testing and services provided
Gifted caseload requirements	Gifted caseloads within caseload requirements
Individual attendance improvement plans	Chronically absent students have attendance improvement plans
IEP monitoring	Federal requirements are met and services are provided
Instructional time	Meeting minimum 1,140 hours
Instructor teaching load and class load	Meeting School Personnel Act requirements (Section 22-10A-20 NMSA 1978)
Next step plan requirements	85 percent of distance learning students have signed, updated next step plans (8th grade and up and ages 14 and up)
Participation in federal accountability assessments for math, reading, and EL progress	95 percent or greater student participation in required assessments
PD or training requirements	Meeting minimum statutory and regulatory training requirements for reading intervention, new teacher mentorship, anti-racism and racial sensitivity, ethical misconduct, bullying prevention, standardized testing procedures, digital citizenship, Title IX training, English learner identification
Special education caseload requirements	Special education caseloads within caseload requirements
Teacher salary information	Minimums in the School Personnel Act (future years to include required increases) are met
Tribal Consultation (Needs assessment and systemic framework)	Tribal consultation happens in historically defined Indian impacted schools or districts