



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

CHRISTOPHER N. RUSZKOWSKI
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

April 24, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Charter School Administrators

FROM: Christopher N. Ruszkowski, Secretary of Education

RE: **Computer Science Courses as Mathematics or Science Credit for High School Graduation**

The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) is committed to making computer science accessible to students in New Mexico districts and charter schools. NMPED is designing an academic standards and coursework plan to facilitate the integration of computer science in grades K–12 as a critical step in meeting this goal. The first of these changes will take effect during the next school year.

Beginning in the 2018–2019 school year, students who demonstrate proficiency on the PARCC Geometry or Algebra II and meet the Algebra II graduation requirement may utilize a qualifying computer science course to earn a mathematics graduation credit. Students who demonstrate proficiency on the science SBA (grade 11) may utilize a qualifying computer science course to earn a science credit. The courses that students may utilize for math or science high school graduation credit beginning in 2018–2019 are:

- **Scientific Technologies:** a science course that uses computer modeling to explore scientific concepts;
- **Mathematical Modeling and Fractal Math:** mathematics courses which use computer modeling to explore mathematical concepts; and
- **AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles:** Computer and Information Sciences courses.

In preparation for the 2019–2020 SY, the department will review all existing Computer and Information Sciences courses to determine which meet the criteria for mathematics or science credit, thereby expanding the list of qualifying courses.

DR/yv

Enc: (Computer Science as Mathematics or Science Credit for Graduation Guidance Document)

cc: Debbie Rael, Deputy Secretary, School Transformation
Matt Montaña, Deputy Secretary, Teaching and Learning
Marian Rael, Acting Deputy Secretary, Finance and Operations
Lisa Chandler, Director, Assessment and Accountability
Elaine Perea, Director, College and Career Readiness
Yanira Vazquez, Director, Math and Science