



## 6 FAQs ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

### 1. HOW ARE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS SET?

New Mexico statute (22-13-1.1) sets requirements for graduating from a New Mexico high school based on a student's cohort (the year the student entered grade 9) for both **coursework** and **competency** in five content areas: reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. New Mexico Administrative Code (6.19.7 and 6.29.1.9) provides the specific requirements.

### 2. ARE COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS CHANGING?

No. Coursework requirements remain the same as in previous years. Students must complete 24 credits of high school coursework in math (4), English (4), science (3), social studies (3.5), PE (1), career or foreign language (1), and electives (7.5).

### 3. ARE COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS CHANGING?

Yes. In the past, the SBA, PARCC, or Transition assessments have been the primary determination of competency for graduation, and students could only use an **alternate demonstration of competency (ADC)**, like an End of Course (EoC) exam, if the district received a waiver from the PED.

Beginning in 2019-20, students may demonstrate competency by any of the methods on the **menu of options**. There is no more primary demonstration and no more ADC waivers.

### 4. WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR DEMONSTRATING COMPETENCY?

Students may use passing scores from a menu of options, including:

- grade 11 required assessments (e.g., SBA, Transition, PARCC scores from previous years, the SAT in spring 2020 and beyond)
- nationally recognized tests like ACT, ACCUPLACER, ASVAB, AP, etc.

For Cohorts 2020 and 2021, school districts may use locally determined demonstrations of competency. For Cohorts 2022 and beyond, there is no local demonstration, but students have other options such as portfolios and career technical pathways.

### 5. WHAT ARE THE PASSING SCORES?

Cut scores for Cohort 2020 are provided on the graduation website. Cut scores for Cohorts 2021 and beyond are being reviewed and will be published in early 2020.

### 6. WHO OVERSEES GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS?

The PED College and Career Readiness Bureau oversees coursework requirements. The PED Assessment Bureau oversees competency requirements.

For additional information, visit the Graduation Requirements page at:  
<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/college-career-readiness/graduation/>  
or email [Grad.Questions@state.nm.us](mailto:Grad.Questions@state.nm.us)