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August 17, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Charter School Directors, School Counselors, and District Test Coordinators

FROM: Gwendolyn Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Teaching, Learning, & Assessment

RE: **Demonstrations of Competency Requirements for Cohorts 2021–2024**

Attached to this memorandum are Demonstrations of Competency Requirements for cohorts 2021–2024. As you review these cohort requirements, please note that, with PED approval, the possibility exists for extension of local demonstrations of competency, starting with cohort 2022 and including a new Innovative Assessment Option.

Through a partnership with Future Focused Education, the PED is co-sponsoring a Community of Practice (COP), working to develop innovative assessment options. The COP, which started meeting in 2020, is an outgrowth of our Student Success Task Force that made several high-level recommendations, envisioning innovative assessment practices that are competency-based graduation pathways.

The COP is charged with assisting in the creation of a graduation pathway that culminates with student exhibitions that demonstrate their learning. The vision of the COP includes:

- Ensuring assessment practices that are culturally responsive and reflective of local communities
- Involving New Mexico educators in the process
- Pursuing innovative practices that measure student learning (e.g., performance-based assessments)
- Designing and piloting assessments that encourage innovative, project-based teaching practices

As honoring culturally and linguistically sustainable teaching practices is foundational to the COP values, its work is rooted in building on the assets students bring with them. If this new system is to be accessible to all students, multiple student pathways must be designed, allowing students to demonstrate college and career readiness. Innovative assessment practices—linked to demonstrations of competency for graduation—can be the entry point to create a more equitable system. Most importantly, our teachers should lead the way.

For additional information on the COP's progress and to join the COP, please visit the New Mexico Innovative Assessment Community of Practice [website](#). For general information on graduation requirements, including course requirements, please visit the NMPED graduation [page](#). Please send inquiries to HS.Graduation@state.nm.us.

Enc.(1): Demonstrations of Competency Requirements for cohorts 2021–2024