



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

ARSENIO ROMERO, Ph.D.
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

**Charter Schools Division
2023-24 Renewal Application Part A
Revised
September 21, 2023**

School Name: Taos Academy

School Address: 110 Paseo del Canon W Taos, NM 87571

Head Administrator: Dr. Traci Filiss

Governing Board Chair: Dean Caldwell

Business Manager: Deanna Mooney

Authorized Grade Levels: 5-12

Authorized Enrollment: 300

2022-23 Enrollment: 261

Contract Term: 2019-2024

Weighted NMCI: 8.25

Mission: The mission of Taos Academy is to prepare students in fifth through twelfth grade to achieve and maintain a level of excellence by supporting and promoting academic achievement, strong leadership skills, and social responsibility. Through the use of innovative curriculum, leadership training, and enrichment opportunities, we foster a community of self-motivated, independent, lifelong learners. The partnership of school, parents, and community creates a learning environment where students acquire the knowledge, leadership skills, and sense of responsibility needed to succeed in the 21st century.

Educational Program of School as written in the contract:

- i. Educational Philosophy - Taos Academy provides a hybrid learning environment that combines direct and digital instruction with experiential curriculum to create a holistic learning environment able to meet each student's academic and social/emotional needs. Taos Academy blends traditional classroom teaching methods with the latest technological advances, allowing students to benefit from both group and one-on-one approaches.
- ii. Instructional Approach - Using proven educational practices, intentional instructional design, and meaningful assessments, the school provides students with the individualized instruction necessary to meet their learning goals. After a thorough assessment, students are placed appropriately according to academic need. Placing students according to present performance levels ensures student success by building on their individual knowledge base rather than grade level. The school provides academic classes to students in a highly interactive digital format with the flexibility of anytime, anywhere learning. After students begin digital studies, their advisor will monitor all academic activities through the web-based program. The advisor has access to all daily academic activity, is able to track time spent on assignments, view scores of individual lessons and quizzes, and determine areas of weakness. Advisor and student are able to communicate using state-of-the-art web-based communications with the capability for audio, visual, and written communication, or live face-to-face communication in a traditional manner. Students are required to attend Math and Language Arts enrichment classes and have access to tutoring to further support academic excellence.
- iii. 21st Century Learning: Taos Academy is devoted to developing a strong community of leaders throughout the organization, focusing our attention on 21st-century learning skills such as communication skills, teamwork, and research skills. Students are required to successfully complete one or more credits per year developing 21Century skills to ensure preparation of future endeavors. Classes offered yearly include but are not limited to, leadership training, global studies, career and technical education development, and STEM institute. Leadership training programs include but are not be limited to, classes in emotional intelligence, advisory groups, outdoor education, and service learning projects. Global studies classes incorporate but are not limited to, global awareness, language study, cultural studies, and geography. The STEM Institute classes offer students a variety of courses, aligned to STEM standards, to enrich the academic programming. Instructional methods include, but are not be limited to, direct instruction, guided teaching, and a constructivist approach (inquiry, analysis, synthesis, etc.). Students attend these classes on campus on a regular basis, depending on their individual plan.
- iv. Career and Technical Education: Taos Academy students are given choice and flexibility in deciding non-core educational programming. With the development of the individualized career pathway plan, students, parents and the school advisors design a schedule that promotes academic success along with targeting areas of interest with classes aligned to the student's career plan. Career and Technical Education courses such as (21st Century classes, dual credit, internship, STEM Institute classes, career prep, elective and/or honors classes) are offered each semester. Students must earn a minimum of 1 credit per year from the list above that aligns to the pathway plan.

Amendments approved in last four years:

PEC Meeting Date	Approved? (Y/N)	Amendment Request
7/22/2022	Y	GB Board Change
7/22/2022	Y	GB Board Change
9/24/2021	Y	Additional Square Footage
6/11/2021	Y	Enrollment Cap Increase: 250 to 300

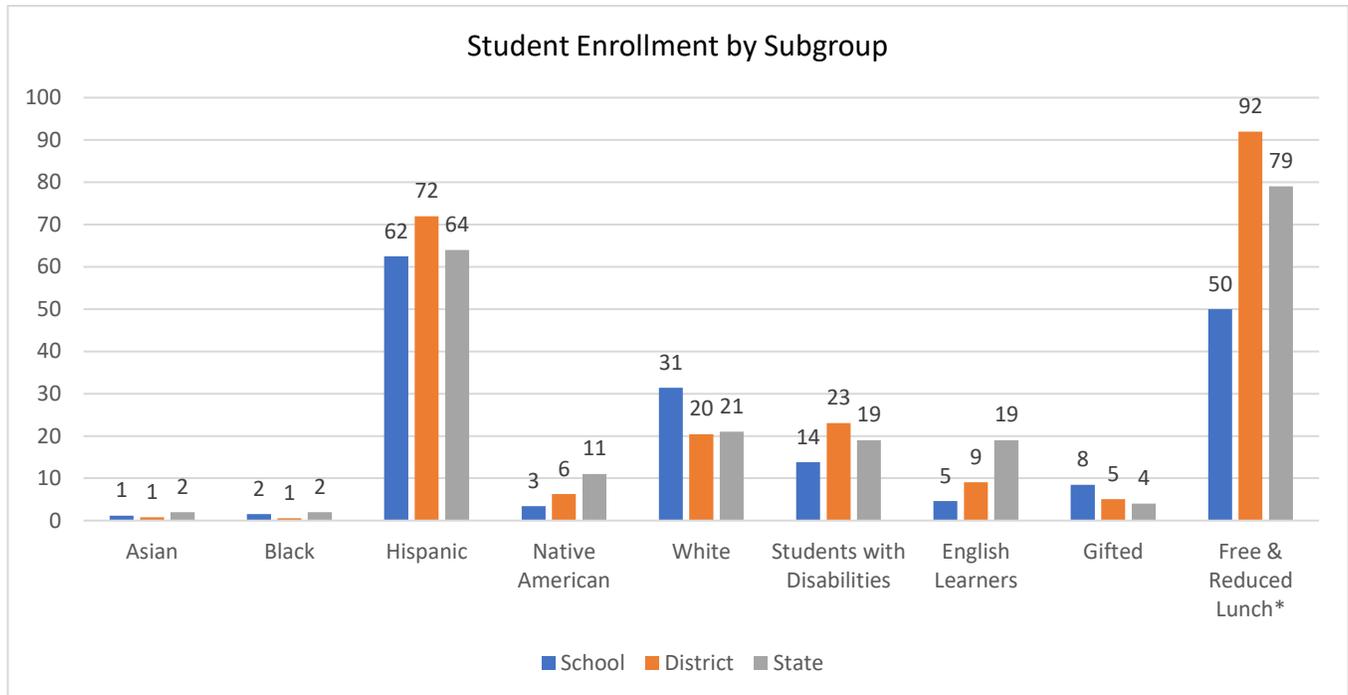
Source: Amendments and Notifications

Waivers:

Non-Discretionary Waiver	First Year of Waiver Implementation
No Waivers Claimed	

Source: CSD Internal Monitoring

Demographics as reported in STARS 2022-23 EOY:



Source: STARS > District and Location Reports > General Reports > Enrollment Subgroup Percentages with Averages

*Note: Figures for Taos Academy's Economically Disadvantaged population were inaccurate on STARS; therefore, data for School, District, and State were pulled from Free and Reduced Lunch data on STARS EOY 2022-23.

Academic Performance

Academic Performance Framework Indicators	2021-22 Score (100 points possible)
1: State Accountability System: NMVISTAS Overall Score	57
2: Subgroup Performance: high, middle, and low-performing quartiles	Not calculated by PED for 2021-22
3: School-specific Goals: if two goals, average of points on each goal	75.0
Overall Academic Score: average of Indicators 1 and 3	66.0

State Accountability System:

State and federal statute mandates accountability for all public schools. This section provides a snapshot of the school’s academic performance according to data collected by the Public Education Department (PED) for the 2022-23 school year.

The New Mexico State Accountability System ([NMVISTAS](#)) gives every public school in the state an overall score. Schools were ranked by percentile within school type, with high schools being ranked separately from elementary and middle schools because of differences in how points are calculated (e.g., graduation factoring into high school but not elementary school accountability). Schools with an overall score that places them in the top 25% of schools in the state are awarded the Spotlight designation. Schools may also receive designations of excellence in specific areas. Schools below the 75th percentile are designated either a Traditional Support School or are given one of several designations indicating a need for greater support.

Schools were ranked by percentile within school type, with high schools being ranked separately from elementary and middle schools because of differences in how points are calculated (e.g., graduation factoring into high school but not elementary school accountability).

Taos Academy ranked above **77.9%** of high schools statewide and is a Spotlight School. The school received a designation of **Spotlight School**.

Overall Standing:

Contract Year	School Year	Vistas Score	Percentile Rank	Designations
Year 1	2019-20	Not available		
Year 2	2020-21	Not available		
Year 3	2021-22	57.2	77.9%	Spotlight School
Year 4	2022-23	Available September 2023		

Source: NMVistas.org

Data are masked as follows in the charts shown below:

Students	Percentages Given	Data Masking
N = 0		<p>Examples:</p> <p>In a group of 17 students, if the proficiency was 3% the chart would show $\leq 20\%$ and if it was 98% it would show $\geq 80\%$.</p> <p>In a group of 59 students, if the proficiency was 3% the chart would show $\leq 5\%$ and if it was 98% the chart would show $\geq 95\%$.</p>
N < 10	*****	
N = 10-20	20% to 80%	
N= 21-40	10% to 90%	
N = 41-100	5% to 95%	
N = 101-300	2% to 98%	
N > 300	1% to 100%	

Proficiency:

Year 3 (2021-22) Proficiency Percentages			
	Reading	Math	Science
All	51%	26%	51%
Asian			*****
Black	*****	*****	*****
Hispanic	43%	20%	45%
Native	*****	*****	*****
White	70%	40%	65%
SwD	*****	*****	*****
EL	*****		*****
FRL	42%	$\leq 20\%$	46%

Source: NMVistas.org

Academic Growth: Growth rates are not available for Years 1 and 2 (2019-20 to 2020-21) as statewide assessments were not administered to all students in those years. The growth rate for Year 3 (2021-22) was calculated by using an expected growth trendline from 2018-19 to 2021-22. The growth rate for Year 4 (2022-23) will reflect growth from Year 3 to Year 4. Negative growth shown in red.

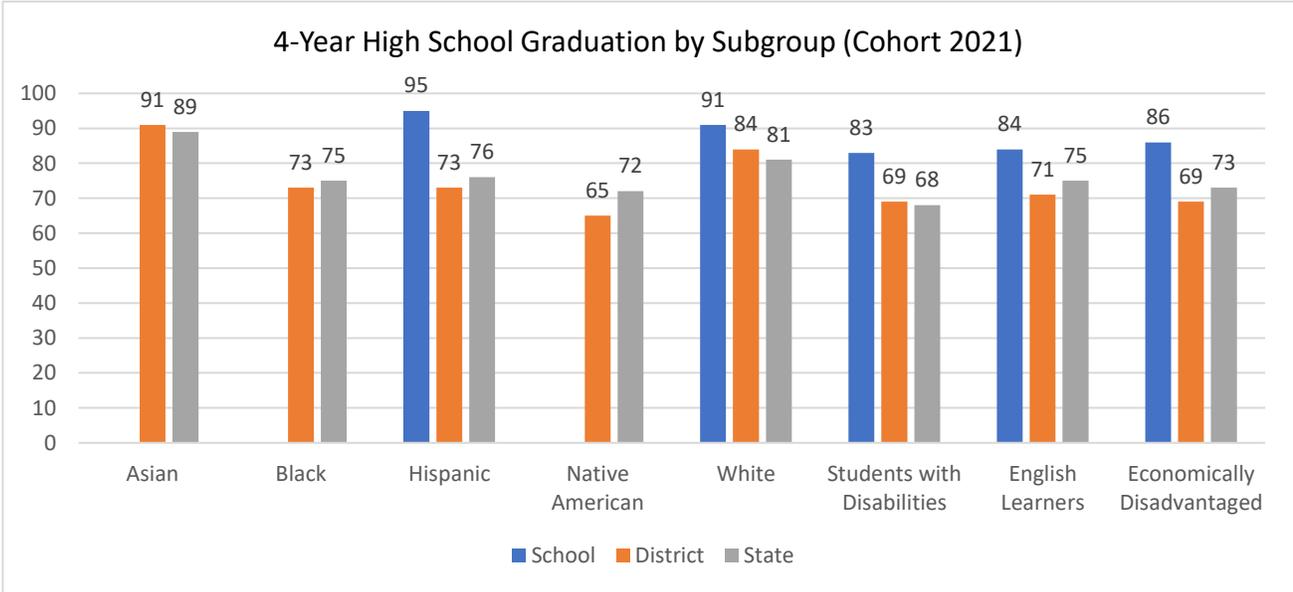
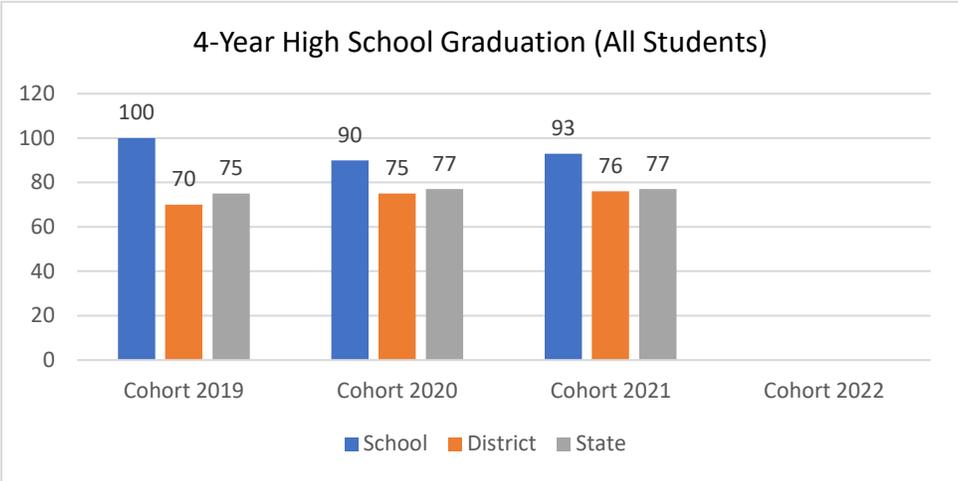
2021-22 Growth		
Improvement Percentile		
	Reading	Math
Overall	1%	-15%
Asian	-150%	-83%
Black	67%	0%
Hispanic	5%	-3%
Native	7%	20%
White	11%	-15%
SwD	14%	6%
EL	25%	0%
FRL	-5%	-10%

Source: NMVistas.org

English Learner Progress toward Proficiency: 11.1%

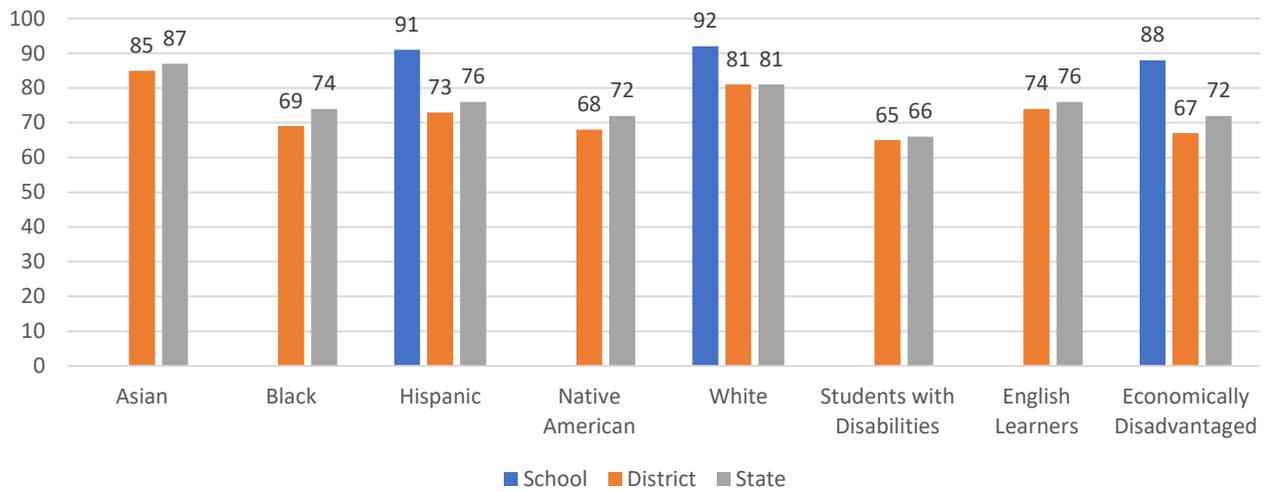
Source: NMVistas.org

High School Graduation Rates: The data reported each year is for the prior year’s cohort of students. Cohort 2021 is the most recent 4-year graduation data available, cohort 2020 is the most recent 5-year data, and cohort 2019 the most recent 6-year data. Data for the next cohort (2022 4-year, 2021 5-year, 2020 6-year) will be available in fall 2023.



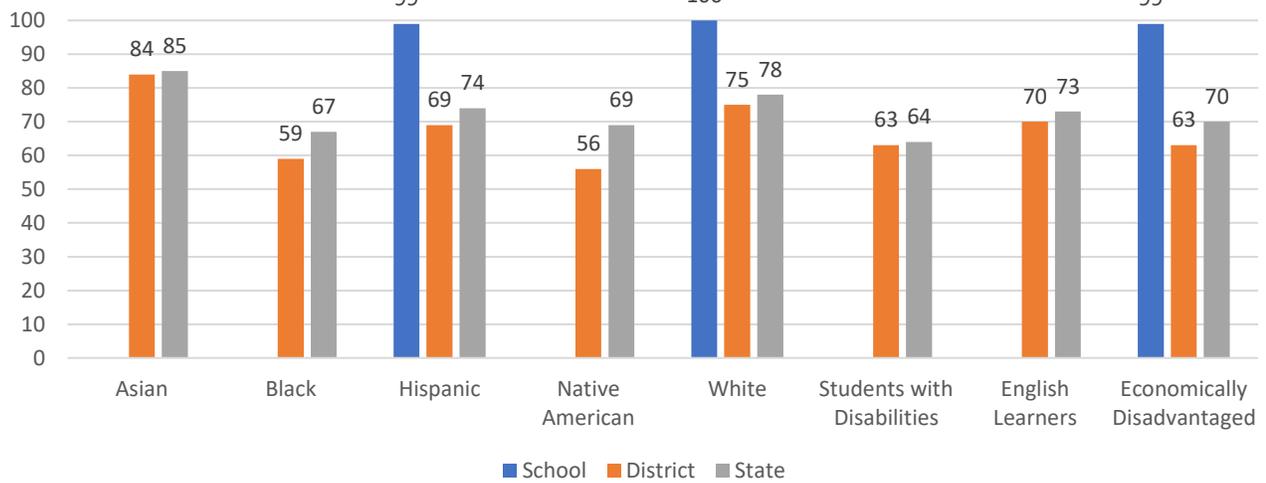
Note: The school-level percentages for the Asian, Black and Native American categories are unavailable and the percentage for the Hispanic category is ≥ 95% in order to mask data due to student population size.

4-Year High School Graduation by Subgroup (Cohort 2020)

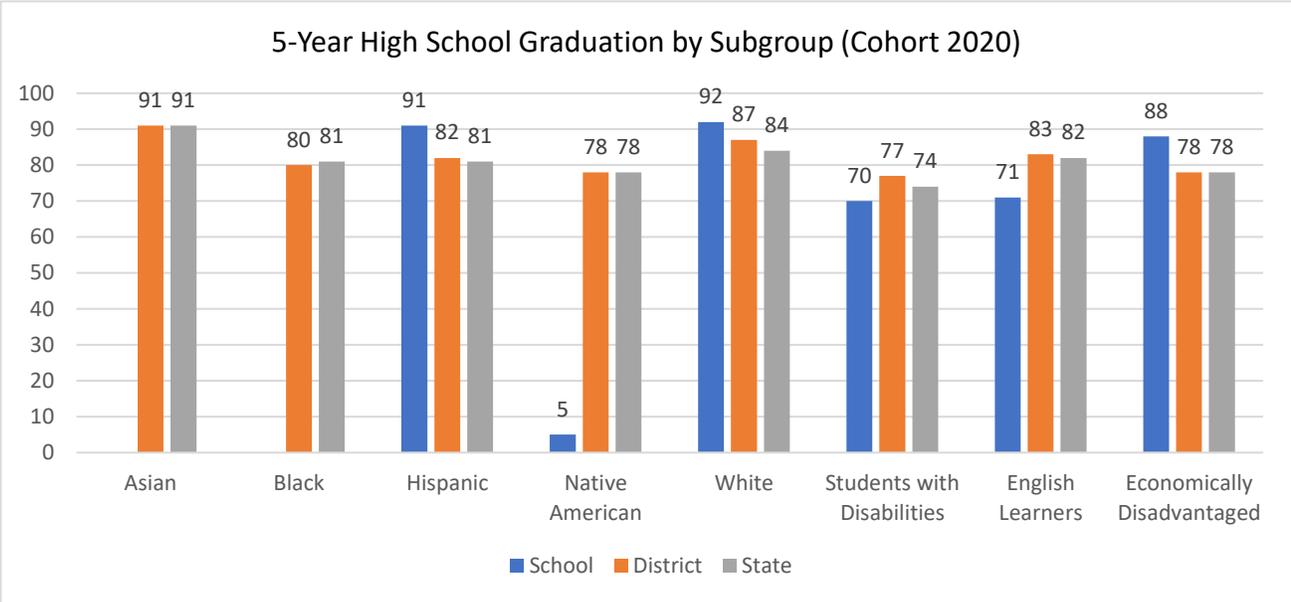
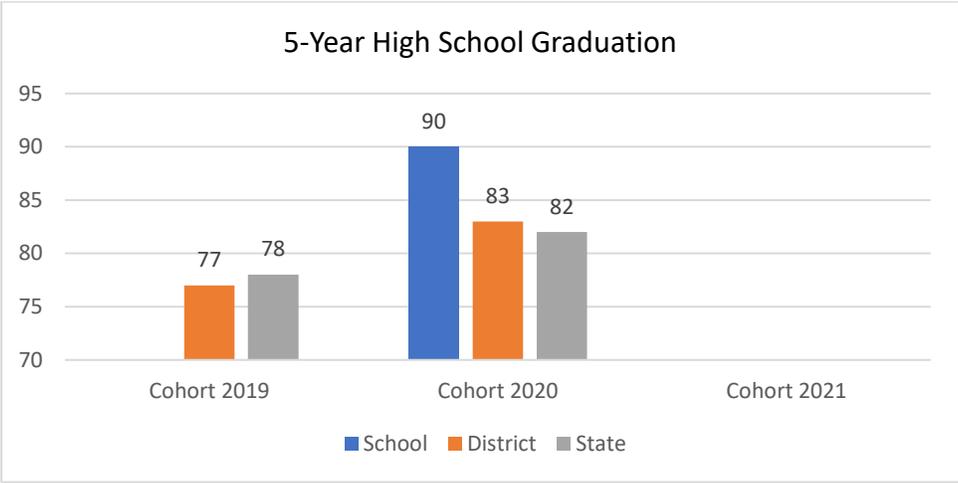


Note: The school-level percentages for most categories are unavailable in order to mask data due to student population size.

4-Year High School Graduation by Subgroup (Cohort 2019)

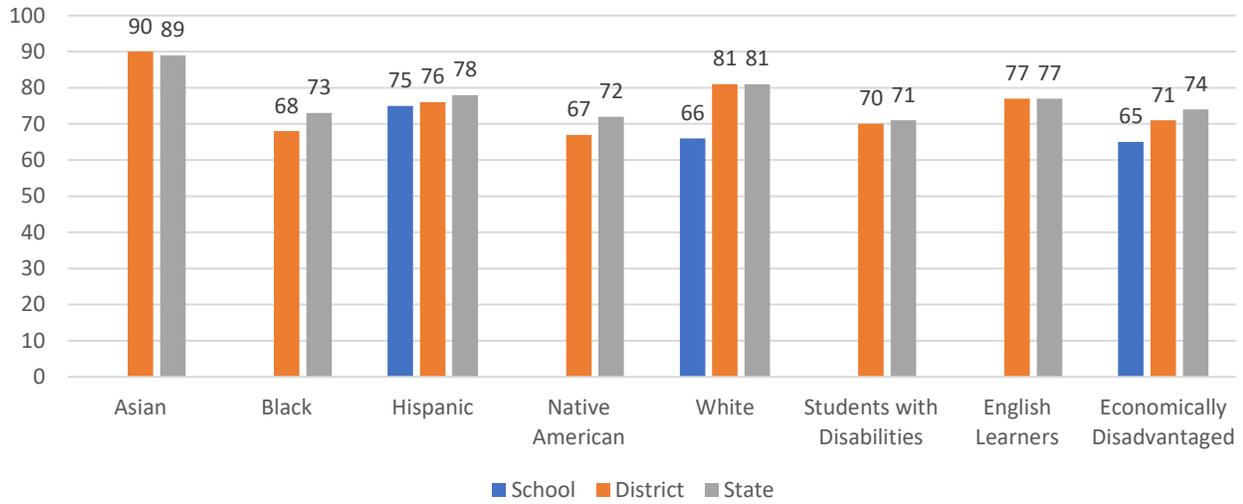


Note: The school-level percentages for most categories are unavailable in order to mask data due to student population size.



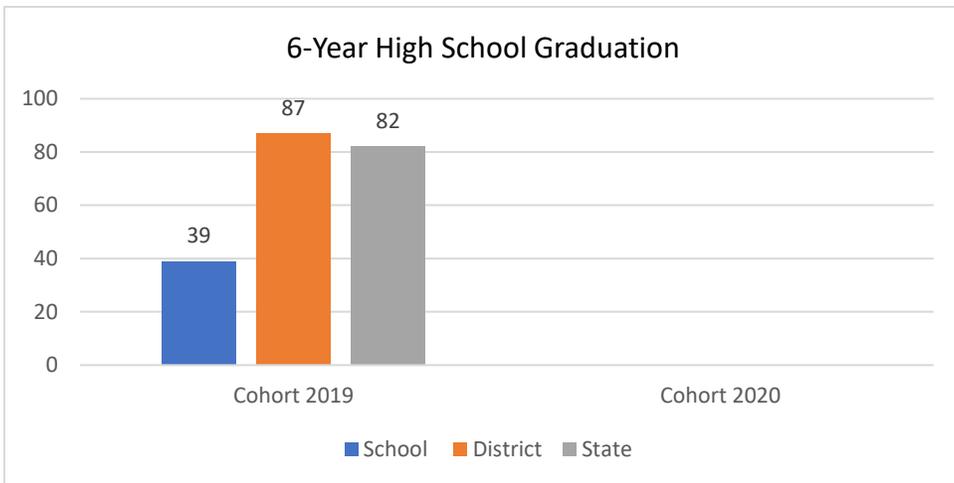
Note: The school-level percentages for the Asian and Black categories are unavailable and the percentage for the Native American category is $\leq 5\%$ in order to mask data due to student population size.

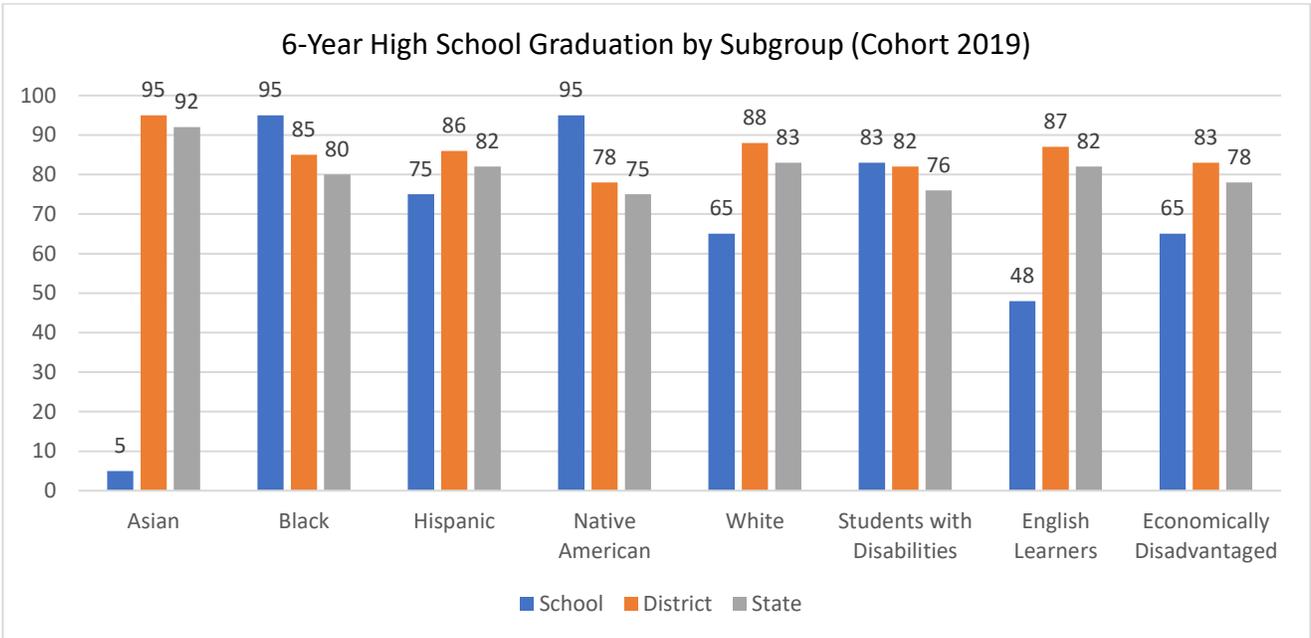
5-Year High School Graduation by Subgroup (Cohort 2019)



Note: The school-level percentages for most categories are unavailable in order to mask data due to student population size.

6-Year High School Graduation





Note: The school-level and district-level percentages for the Asian category is $\leq 5\%$ and the percentages for the Black and Native American categories are $\geq 95\%$ in order to mask data due to student population size.

Source: NMPED Graduation Data Site, <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/accountability/graduation/>

School-Specific or Mission-Specific Goals:

Year	Goal 1	Goal 2	Overall Rating: Academic Indicator 3
Year 1	Unable to Review - COVID	No Goal	Unable to Review - COVID
Year 2	Meets Standard		Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Year 3	Meets Standard		Meets Standard
Year 4	Exceeds Standard		Exceeds Standard

Source: CSD Internal Monitoring

Mission-Specific Goal: Students in grades 5-12 at Taos Academy, enrolled on both the 40th and 120th day of the academic year, will complete at least 1 credit in Career and Technology Education (CTE) course (21st Century classes, dual credit, internship, STEAM Institute classes, career prep, elective and/or honors classes). The student Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and student transcript will document credit earned and grade in the class, respectively, as demonstrated by an exported report from the school’s Student Information System (SIS).

Performance Level	Target	Points
Exceeds Standard	80% or higher of Taos Academy students will complete at least 1 credit in Career and Technology Education (CTE) course each year with a passing grade of “B” (80%) or higher.	100
Meets Standard	70% to 79% of Taos Academy students will complete at least 1 credit in Career and Technology Education (CTE) course each year with a passing grade of “B” (80%) or higher.	75
Does Not Meet Standard	60% to 69% of Taos Academy students will complete at least 1 credit in Career and Technology Education (CTE) course each year with a passing grade of “B” (80%) or higher.	25
Falls Far Below Standard	Below 60% of Taos Academy students will complete at least 1 credit in Career and Technology Education (CTE) course each year with a passing grade of “B” (80%) or higher.	0

Student Attendance/Retention/Recurrent:

Year	Student Attendance Target: 95%	Student Retention Target: 70%	Student Recurrent Enrollment Target: 80%
FY20	97%	92%	81%
FY21	97%	92%	75%
FY22	97%	96%	76%
FY23	98%	92%	85%

Student Attendance Source: STARS > District and Location Reports > Template Verification Reports > Student > Student Summary Attendance Summary; **Retention and Recurrent Enrollment Source:** STARS > District and Location Reports > Options for Parents > Charter School Enrollment Report

Teacher Retention Rate:

Year	Retention Rate
FY20 to FY21	76%
FY21 to FY22	61%
FY22 to FY23	95%

Source: STARS > State Reports > Staff Reports > Turnover Rates for Assignment Category (Teachers)

Financial Compliance

Enrollment Trends as reported in STARS End of Year (EOY):

Grades Served	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Grade 5	16	9	16	10
Grade 6	23	25	11	27
Grade 7	32	23	40	24
Grade 8	35	44	29	42
Grade 9	38	24	53	31
Grade 10	36	45	32	50
Grade 11	22	39	46	37
Grade 12	32	23	32	40
Total	234	232	259	261

Source: STARS > District and Location Reports > General Reports > Enrollment by District by Location by Grade

Staffing measured in Full-Time Equivalents (FTE):

Year	Admin	EAs	Non-Certified Personnel	Other Personnel	Related Service Personnel, School Counselor	Reg Ed Teacher	SPED, Gifted Teacher	TOTAL All Funds
FY20	1.5	1	6.4	0.94	0.58	15.24	1.65	27.31
FY21	1.5	0	6.18	0.58	0.33	13.84	2	24.43
FY22	1.69	2.49	6.11	0.9	1.33	17.99	3	33.51
FY23	1.64	0.49	9.16	0.9	1.68	17.99	4	35.86

Source: STARS > State Reports > Staff > Number of Staff with FTE by District, Assignment Category, Assignment

FTE paid with operational funds:

Year	Reg Ed Teacher	SPED Teacher	Reg Ed EA	SPED EA	Principal Head Admin	Admin / Support	Support Services	TOTAL Operational
FY20	16.57	1	0.5	0	0.75	0.5	9.03	27.1
FY21	12.93	2.45	1	0	0.75	0.5	8.83	25.21
FY22	15.31	2.45	1	0	0.75	0.5	8.45	27.21
FY23	19.49	1.62	0.49	0	0.75	1	9.2	30.8

Source: OBMS > Reports > Budget Reports > Budget Job Class Report

Actual SEG Funding and Operational Expenses, in whole dollars, by Function Code:

Function	Function Name	FY20	%	FY21	%	FY22	%	FY23	%
1000	Direct Instruction	\$1,501,876	61%	\$1,227,309	56%	\$1,719,124	63%		
2100	Student Support	\$194,048	8%	\$168,411	8%	\$125,412	5%		
2200	Instructional Support	\$581	0%	0	0%	\$1,320	0%		
2300	Central Administration	\$227,532	9%	\$234,932	11%	\$146,434	5%		
2400	School Administration	\$125,893	5%	\$154,486	7%	\$243,727	9%		
2500	Central Services	\$201,773	8%	\$190,562	9%	\$215,992	8%		
2600	Maintenance and Operations	\$193,623	8%	\$192,874	9%	\$238,764	9%		
2700-5999	All Other Function Codes	\$18,374	1%	\$4,923	0%	\$28,894	1%		
Total Operational Expense Fund 11000		\$2,463,699	100%	\$2,172,957	100%	\$2,719,668	100%		
Total Operational Revenue Fund 11000		\$2,526,864		\$2,372,683		\$3,329,643			

Source: School Budget Bureau

Operational Cash Balance from audited financial reports

Year	Cash Amount	% Increase (Decrease)	CB Target	Days Cash on Hand
FY2020	\$202,159.00	-39.55%	7.4%	27.15
FY2021	\$238,366.00	17.91%	9.2%	33.60
FY2022	\$19,182.00	-91.95%	0.5%	1.86
FY2023	\$881,275.00	4494.28%	19.1%	69.78

Source: OBMS > Reports > Budget Reports > Unrestricted Cash Balance Report

Audit Findings: Audit reports are not completed until a fiscal year ends, so that schools received the FY2019 audit report during contract Year 1, and the performance ratings for Year 1 (SY 2019-20) are based on the audit report for FY2019 (SY 2018-19).

Fiscal Year	Total Findings	Repeat Findings	Material Weakness	Significant Deficiency	Disclaimed Audit
FY2019	3	0	0	0	No
FY2020	0	0	0	0	No
FY2021	0	0	0	0	No
FY2022	2	0	0	0	No

Note: Includes findings for both Taos Academy and Taos Academy Foundation.

Source: NMPED Audit Report, Clifton Larson and Associates

Governing Body Performance

Board Membership and Officers: Did the board have all required officers and all required members in place during each fiscal year of the contract term, and were notifications of changes in membership submitted timely? (If there were no board vacancies during a fiscal year, the notification column will indicate N/A.)

Fiscal Year	Chair	Vice-Chair	Secretary	Full Membership	Timely Notification of Vacancies
FY2020	Bill MacDonald	Dean Caldwell	Simeon Herskovits	Yes	
FY2021	Bill MacDonald	Dean Caldwell	Simeon Herskovits	Yes	
FY2022	Dean Caldwell	Donna Mellinger	Simeon Herskovits	Yes	Yes
FY2023	Dean Caldwell	Donna Mellinger	Simeon Herskovits	Yes	Yes

Source: CSD Internal Monitoring

Governing Board Training: Did all members of the board complete the required training hours of 8 hours per year for continuing members and 10 hours for new members? **Note:** Black shading indicates that the member did not serve a full year; red indicates that the member did not complete all required training hours. An asterisk indicates the school has a 2-hour fiscal exemption.

Board Members	FY20*	FY21*	FY22*	FY23*
Simeon Herskovits	Yes	n/a*	Yes	Yes
Matthew Currey	Yes	Yes		
Kristen Torres	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Dean Caldwell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bill MacDonald	Yes	Yes		
Karen Shannon			Yes	Yes
Donna Mellinger			Yes	Yes
Martin Molz				Yes

- COVID hold harmless

Source: CSD Internal Monitoring

Performance Framework Ratings

Pursuant to the [PEC Performance Framework and Accountability System \(2019\)](#), schools receive ratings of **Meets Standard**, **Working to Meet Standard**, or **Does Not Meet Standard** for individual indicators in the framework. Explanations for any rating other than Meets Standard are provided below.

The school also receives an overall rating of either **Meets Standard** or **Does Not Meet Standard** for the year. If a school receives a **Does Not Meet Standard** rating for three or more indicators, it will receive an overall rating of **Does Not Meet Standard**.

Contract Year	School Year	Overall Rating: Organization & Financial Framework
Year 1	2019-20	Meets Standard
Year 2	2020-21	Meets Standard
Year 3	2021-22	Meets Standard
Year 4	2022-23	Meets Standard

Source: CSD Internal Monitoring

Multi-year Performance Framework Ratings

Taos Academy	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Organizational and Financial Performance				
1a Mission and Educational Program	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
1b State Assessment Requirements	Not Reviewed	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Pending
1c Rights of Students with Disabilities	Not Reviewed	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
1d Rights of English Learners	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
1e Meeting Program Requirements	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
1f NM DASH Plan	N/A	N/A	N/A	Meets Standard
2a Financial Reporting and Compliance	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2b Accounting Principles	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2c Responsive to Audit Findings	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2d Managing Grant Funds	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2e Staffing for Fiscal Management	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2f Internal Controls	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
3a Governance Requirements	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
3b Nepotism, Conflict of Interest	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
3c Reporting Requirements	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4a Rights of All Students	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4b Attendance and Retention	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4c Staff Credentialing	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4d Employee Rights	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4e Background Checks, Ethics	Working to Meet Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
5a Facilities	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
5b Transportation	Meets Standard	Assurances	N/A	N/A
5c Health and Safety	Working to Meet Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
5d Handling Information	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard

Explanation of 2022-23 Indicator Ratings:

All indicators received a rating of Meets Standard.

Explanation of 2021-22 Indicator Ratings:

All indicators received a rating of Meets Standard.

Source: CSD Internal Monitoring