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GOVERNOR

January 10, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Charter School Leaders
FROM: Mariana D. Padilla, Secretary Designate of Public Education
RE: Updated Graduation Requirements Manual

Initial
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This memorandum announces the release of the new [Graduation Requirements Manual](#) for New Mexico, which outlines the updated graduation standards designed to help students graduate prepared for success in college, careers, and beyond. The manual is in alignment with Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 and should be implemented for **Cohort 2025** and beyond.

The passing of House Bill 171 (HB171) in the 2024 legislative session amends current law to update New Mexico's high school graduation requirements. Key changes include:

- Algebra 2, Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, Distance Learning, and Honors courses are no longer required, although a student's opportunity to take these courses shall not be affected.
- Algebra 1, Geometry, and Health credit earned prior to enrolling in high school shall satisfy the requirement to earn a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence.
- Opportunities to earn core credit in the areas of English, math, or science through department-approved career technical education (CTE) courses and work-based learning (WBL) courses.
- A two-unit elective pathway concentration of the student's choice is required.
- Two units set by each local school board or governing body that meet department academic content and performance standards are required.
- The removal of state required demonstration of competency in five core subject areas (i.e., mathematics, reading and language arts, writing, social studies, and science). Although high school students must still participate in the state's required Every Student Succeeds Act

(ESSA) assessments, the *additional* requirement of demonstrating competency in five core subject areas is no longer necessary.

The requirement for high school students to create Next-Step Plans, in which they set personal post-high-school goals, became effective on July 1, 2003, following the signing of HB 305: Next-Step Plans for High School Students. Since then, completing a final Next-Step Plan has been a mandatory prerequisite for graduation. The Next-Step Plan is not a new requirement but rather an established part of the graduation process aimed at guiding students toward future success.

For questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Grad.Questions@ped.nm.gov.

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Enc: (Graduation-Manual---HB171.pdf)
(HB0171.pdf)

cc: Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation
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Jacqueline Costales, Division Director of Curriculum and Instruction
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