

Graduation Competency Requirements

LESC Panel

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Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.



Graduation Requirements Discussion

Guiding Principles for Revisions

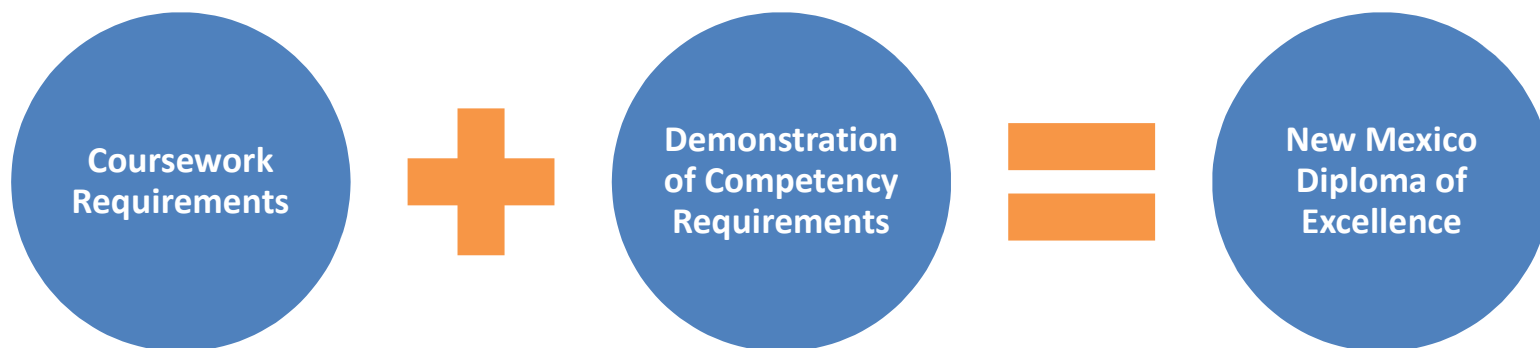
Competency Requirements

Suggestions for Revisions

Guiding Principals for Revision



Current Graduation Requirements



New Mexico Statute 22-13-1.1 (2017)

New Mexico Administrative Code 6.19.7 (2018)

New Mexico Administrative Code 6.29.1.9.K* (2020)

* "This includes the requirement of passing the high school system of assessments."

Working Groups at PED

- Core Academics

What skills are essential?

- Electives

How do we support the whole child?

- Assessment

How do we know?

Martinez and Yazzie v. State of New Mexico

Judge Singleton's ruling included a directive that the state take immediate steps to "ensure teaching is tailored to the unique cultural and linguistic needs of students, including English-language learners and indigenous communities."

Three major limitations with current graduation policy.

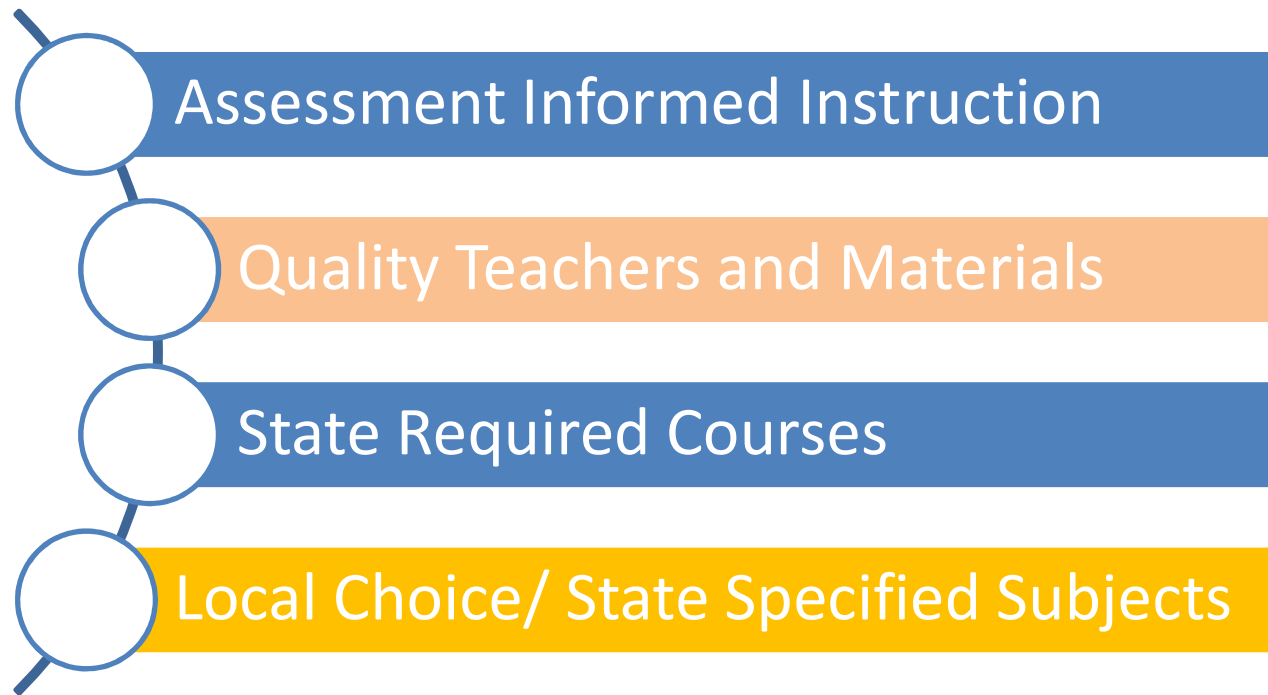
- 1. Restrictive Course Requirements**
- 2. Mandatory "electives"**

3. A Long List of Exams

- Requiring a set of graduation exams is contrary to the recommendations of several major research organizations
- Offering a menu of assessment options might appear to be fair, but these options cannot be technically compared in a valid manner
- Standardized assessments do not measure dispositions that many New Mexico communities value: critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, civic-mindedness, etc.

Gertz, C (2017, February 15). Which states require an exam to graduate?. *Education Week*.
<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/which-states-require-an-exam-to-graduate>

Tenets for Change



Components of EVERY Required Course



Graduation Requirements



Equitable Access to College

ALL STUDENTS
must take college entrance exam
(or suitable replacement assessment for
SPED and EL)

Assessment...
Demonstration of Competency
Considerations



Demonstration of Competency Requirements



Demonstration of
Competency
Requirements
(Assessments)

- A demonstration is required for five content areas:
 - Math
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Science
 - Social studies

ESSA Requires state to test “Proficiency”

- Every Student Succeeds Act, and Federal Funding, requires standardized test administration in 3rd, 8th, and 11th grade
- PED switched from PARCC to SAT effective SY 2019-2020*
 - Math
 - Reading



Historical Context: “Competency”

Prior to 2019

- New Mexico required students to use the annual spring state assessment (SBA, PARCC, etc) as a **primary demonstration of competency**
- District and Charters had to request a waiver from the PED to use an **alternative demonstration of competency**.



2019-Present

Students may now choose from a **menu of options to demonstrate competency**; all options are **“equivalent” demonstrations of competencies**.



Multiple attempts model but high cost & high stress



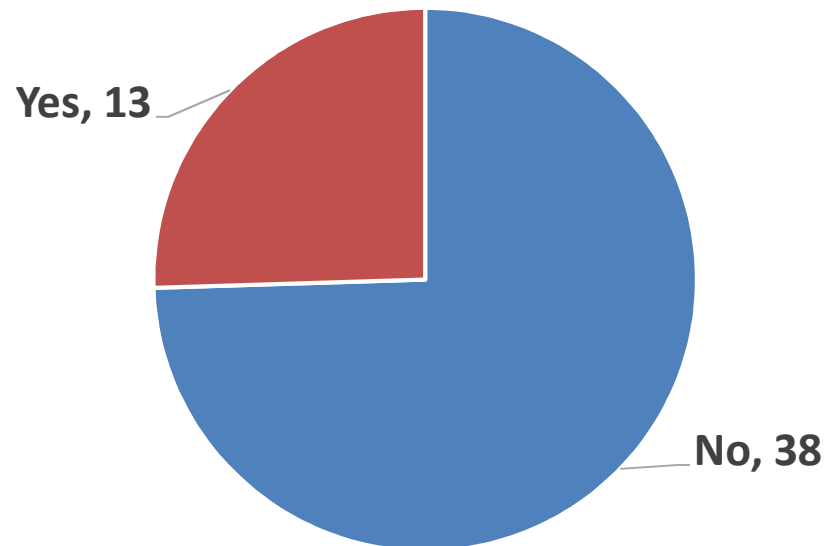
Leveling model but inappropriate equivalencies

The top document, 'COHORT 2021 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS', lists 'ESBA-REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS' such as the New Mexico Algebra I or II, Geometry, Integrated Math II or III, SAT Subject Day Mathematics, and SAT Subject Day Reading and Writing. It also lists 'OTHER NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS' like ACT, AP, and IB exams. The bottom document, 'COHORT 2022 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS', introduces 'OTHER DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCY' options, including 'LOCAL DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCY (LDC)' and 'INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT OPTION'. It also lists 'OTHER NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS' and 'SOCIAL SCIENCES' options.

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/college-career-readiness/graduation/>

Survey of States Requiring Exit Exams

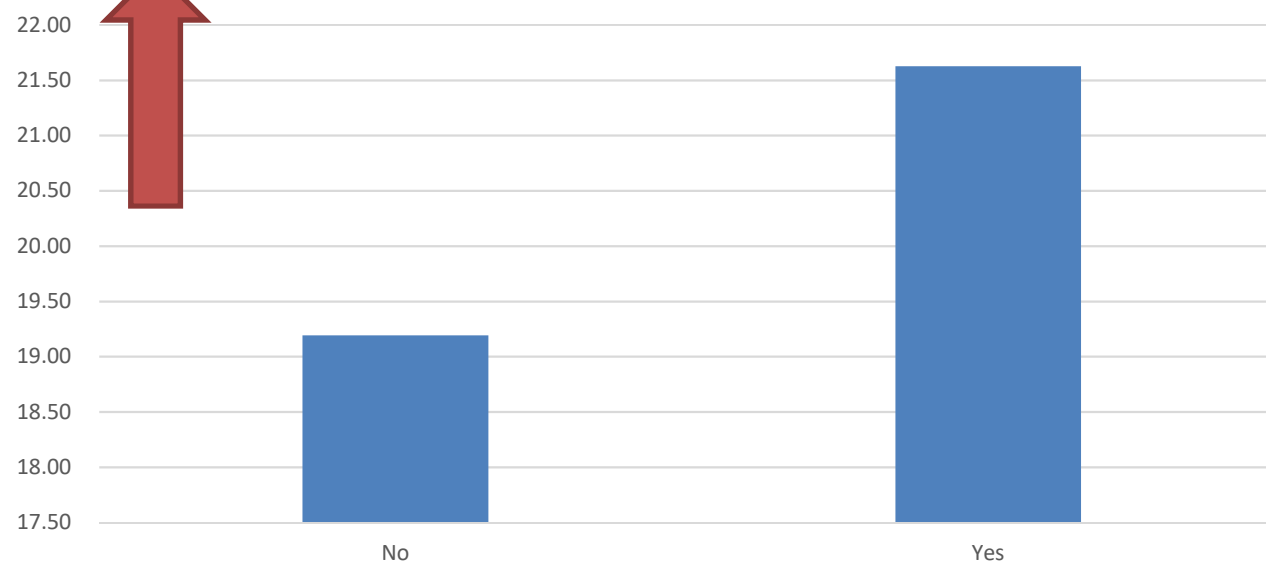
2019 NCES data



Survey of States Course Credit Requirements

NM = 24 ★

Average Required Credits



Per NCES, 2019; 12 states require 16 units or less

Capstone projects as an assessment alternative

18 month grant to define and pilot new assessment alternatives

- Senior capstone exhibitions
- Community development of graduate profile
- PED workgroups re-envisioned capstones as a course

Schools and districts that piloted the senior capstone requirements in 2021 included:

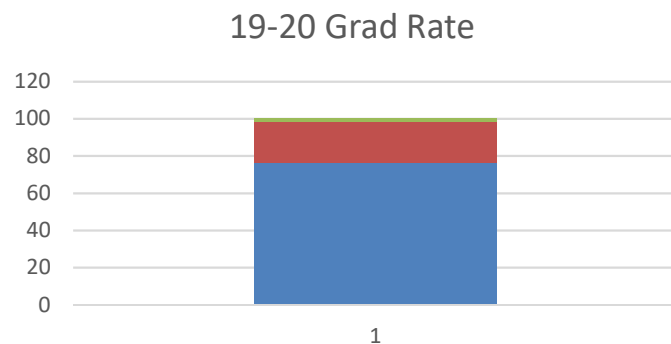
- ACE Leadership
- Amy Biehl High School
- Cuba Independent School District
- Farmington Municipal Schools
- Health Leadership
- Santa Fe Public Schools
- Siembra Leadership
- South Valley Academy
- Vista Grande HS
- Zuni Public Schools

Current Coursework Requirements

Courses	Credits Required
Math in high school (one of which shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of Algebra II)	4 credits
English with major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing, and literature	4 credits
Science	3 credits
U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, government and economics and N.M. History (0.5 credit)	3.5 credits
Physical education	1 credit
Career cluster course, workplace readiness, or a language other than English	1 credit
Electives that meet department content and performance standard	7.5 credits
Health	1 course

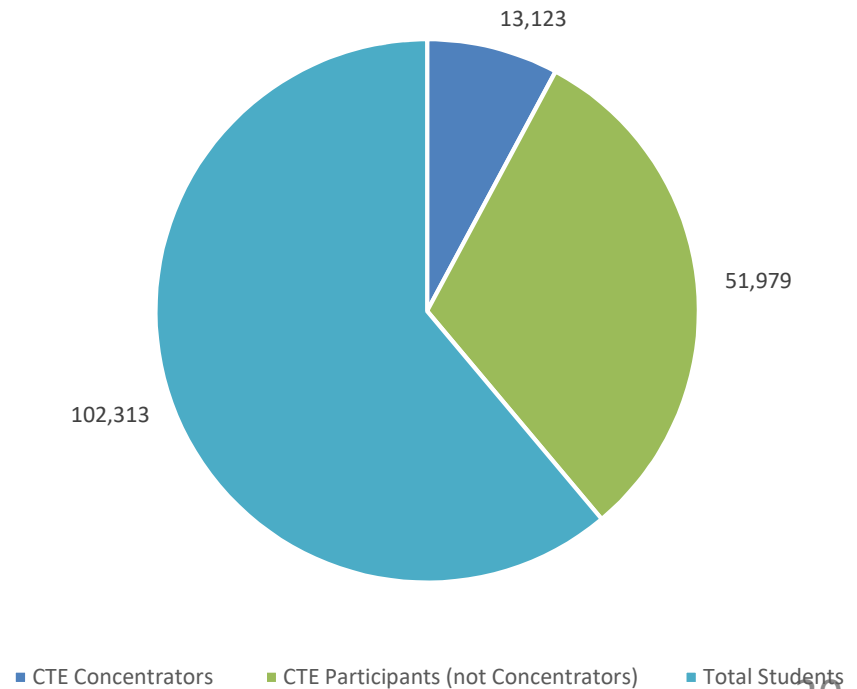
CTE Completion Increases Graduation Rates *but* Access is Limited

1 unit of
Career Cluster,
Workplace Readiness, or
Language other than English.



19-20 CTE Grad Rate 98.6%

19-20 CTE Participation

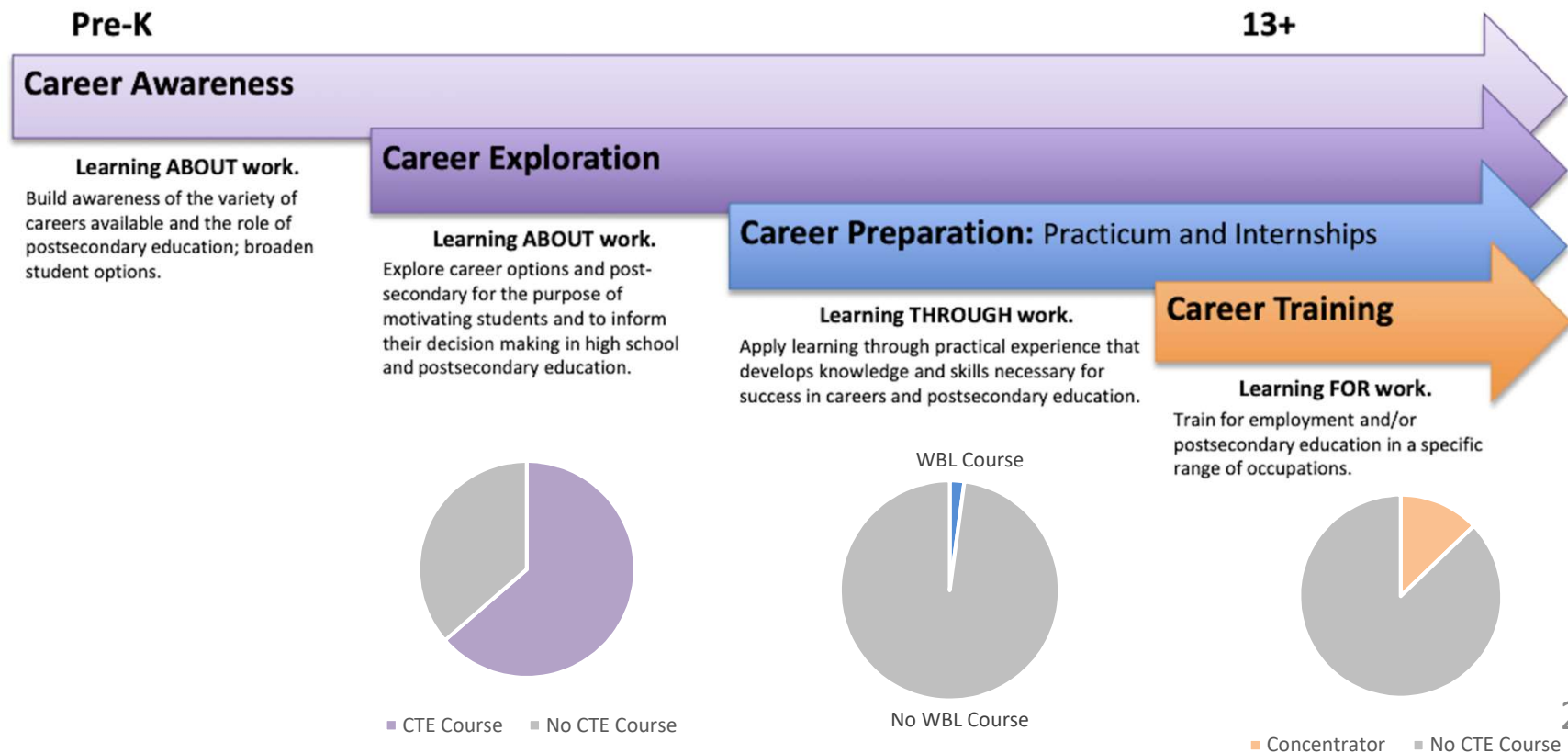


Other States Focus on CTE as a requirement

- At least 12 states offer an endorsement, seal, or special diploma
- Several states require a certain number of electives to be “career focused” or “aligned with students’ post-high school plans.”
- At least two states allow students to replace one of the five required competency exams with a comparably rigorous technical, arts or other assessment, as defined and approved by the state.

<https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/CTE-StateGradRequirementsFINAL.pdf>

Work Based Learning Course Enrollment



Biliteracy As a Valued Asset in New Mexico

State Seal of Bilingualism Biliteracy (SSBB)

Students can earn the seal by:

- Tribal certification
- 4 units of credit and a national assessment
- 4 units of credit and a portfolio
- National assessment and a portfolio

5% of
2019-20 Graduates
(1,005 students)

Suggestions for Revisions to Graduation Requirements



Proposed Solution

- Update New Mexico's graduation requirements to:
 - Allow students space to develop their interests
 - Make competency the foundation of every class
 - Encourage local communities to develop graduate profiles
 - Promote community engagement by offering capstone projects

4 Mathematics Units

Non-negotiable courses	Coursework Options	Pathway Substitutions
Algebra I	Computer Science A	Architecture CTE Concentration
Geometry	Comp Science Principles	STEM CTE Concentration
OR	Algebra II	Finance CTE Concentration
Integrated Pathway: Math I	Algebra II/Trig	IT CTE Concentration
Integrated Pathway: Math II	Probability and Statistics	Manufacturing CTE Concentration
	Applied Math	Transportation CTE Concentration
	Fractal Mathematics	Set Design POS
	Integrated Pathway: Math III	
	Mathematical Modeling	
	AP and IB courses in Math	
	Dual Credit College Level Math	

4 Language Units*

Non-negotiable courses	Coursework Options	Pathway Substitutions
ELA 1 /ELA-ELD I	ELA 4 /ELA-ELD IV	Research/Technical Writing
ELA 2 /ELA-ELD II	Literacy Ready	Creative Writing
ELA 3 /ELA-ELD III	World Language levels 2+	Journalism
	English Learner Development	Communications
		Debate
	AP and IB courses in Language Arts	
	Dual Credit College Level Language	

* with major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature

4 Science Units

Non-negotiable courses	Coursework Options	Pathway Substitutions
2 Laboratory Sciences	Core Science codes	Health CTE Concentrator
	Computer Science A	STEM CTE Concentrator
	Computer Science Principles	Agriculture CTE Concentrator
	Scientific Technologies	
	Health Science	
	AP and IB courses in Science	
	Dual Credit College Level Science	
	Dual Credit College Level Computer Science	

4 Social Studies Units

Non-negotiable courses	Coursework Options	Pathway Substitutions
US History & Geography	0.5 U.S. Government	Community Learning w/ Capstone
World History & Geography	0.5 N.M. History	Business CTE Concentration
	0.5 Civics	Government CTE Concentration
	Economics & Financial Literacy	Law & Safety CTE Concentration
		Teacher Education POS
	AP and IB courses in Social Studies	
	Dual Credit College Level History	
	Dual Credit College Level Social Science	

Elective Units

Non-negotiable courses	Coursework Options
2 Unit Pathway Concentration	any offered academic course
• Sports	any offered holistic course
• World Language	All Dual Credit College Level Courses
• Fine Arts	
• Military	
• CTE program	
• Community Learning w/ Capstone	
• 2 units of Work Based Learning	

Reduce Schedule Crowding

Revise Current Requirements	Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, Online, or Honors	Career Cluster, Workplace Readiness, or language other than English	Physical Education
	Algebra II	NM History	Health
Reject Recent Proposals	Financial Literacy	Civics	Media Literacy

Graduation Requirements



Questions/Discussion

