

Date: June 26, 2024

Prepared By: John Sena

Rule Citation: NMAC 6.19.7, Demonstration of Competency for High School Graduation

Overview of Adopted Rule

Agency: Public Education Department

Rulemaking Action: Repeal

Date Adopted: June 13, 2024

Effective Date: June 25, 2024

Rule's Purpose: The rule repeal eliminates the requirement for high school students to demonstrate competency in core content areas in order to graduate high school.

Summary of Repeal of NMAC 6.19.7, Demonstration of Competency for High School Graduation

The repeal of NMAC 6.19.7 aligns with Laws 2024, Chapter 2 (House Bill 171), which amended high school graduation requirements and included the removal of a demonstration of competency requirement for high school students. The repealed rule outlined those requirements, as well as requirements for the Public Education Department (PED) to develop and issue an annual graduation manual. The repealed rule also include reporting and record keeping requirements.

Historical Context. Under the oversight of Gov. Susanna Martinez, PED required high school students complete a primary demonstration of competency by scoring proficient or better on state assessments. If unable to do so, students were allowed to use alternative demonstrations of competency to fulfill high school graduation requirements. Those alternatives included meeting cut scores on other standardized assessments or gaining entrance to a higher education institution, among others. During the administration of Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, PED eliminated the distinction between primary and alternative demonstrations of competency, effectively permitting students to choose from a menu of options to meet requirements.

Impact

Recent statutory changes to high school graduation requirements mean high school students no longer have to demonstrate competency by means of a standardized test or other previous options. Instead, passing courses and completing the required number of credits suffice for graduation. This change, however, does not remove the federal requirement that high school students participate in state testing once during their high school career. In New Mexico, high school juniors are required to complete the SAT.