

## **General Information on New Mexico Education**

### **Interstate Compact for the Educational Opportunity for Military Students**

This Interstate Compact addresses the unique issues students of Military families face due to frequent relocations in the course of service to our country and during stressful times of deployments. In an event to reduce the significant school challenges faced by these families, the Council of State Governments; National Center for Interstate Compacts developed this legislation to create an even playing field as our military children transfer between schools systems and states. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the voluntary Compact through legislation. New Mexico adopted the compact in May 2010 and is currently in the process of establishing the committee that will oversee its enforcement throughout the state. The compact addresses many of the difficulties families face during PCS and deployments. It specifically covers-

1. Enrollment
  - Educational Records
  - Immunizations required for school
  - Age of Enrollment/Course continuation
2. Eligibility
  - Power of Attorney
  - Tuition
  - Non-Custodial parents
  - Extracurricular Activities
3. Placement
  - Course placement/Educational Program placement
  - Special Education Services
  - Placement Flexibility
  - Absence as related to deployment activities
4. Graduation
  - Waiver requirements
  - Exit exams
  - Transfers during Senior year

Because the state level commission has yet to meet, there has not been any effort to enforce the compact by school districts. Albuquerque Public Schools has voluntarily adopted policies and procedures to fulfill all areas of the compact. To review APS's Military Children Procedural Directives, visit <http://www.aps.edu/about-us/policies-and-procedural-directives/procedural-directives/j.-students/military-children>. For more information on the Interstate Compact, visit [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net).

### **Immunizations**

The state of New Mexico requires all students to be fully immunized against Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (DTaP), Polio (OPV or IPV), Measles/Mumps/Rubella

(MMR), Hepatitis B and Varicella. All students must have their Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) for entry into 7<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond. Meningococcal and HPV vaccinations are also recommended at the same time. Please review the New Mexico Department of Health Immunization Program Website at [www.immunizenm.org](http://www.immunizenm.org). For information call the New Mexico Immunization Toll Free Hotline (800)-232-4636.

### **Kindergarten**

Children admitted to the kindergarten program shall be at least 5 years old on or before 31 August. New Mexico Kindergarten programs are full day programs. For additional eligibility and registration information, contact your home school. If your child started Kindergarten at your previous location, they miss the NM age cutoff, and one parent is active duty, your child is allowed to enroll in Kindergarten per the Interstate Compact of Educational Opportunity for Military Students. Please contact the School Liaison Officer if you have any difficulty.

### **New Mexico Public Education Department**

New Mexico statutes require the department to adopt academic content and performance standards and to measure the performance of public schools in New Mexico. New Mexico has adopted the entire Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Math. New Mexico has added an additional 15% of state-specific standards focusing on culturally relevant texts and instruction to the English Language Arts standards. The Next Generation Science standards were also fully adopted, with an additional six New Mexico specific standards. The standards for all other subjects have not changed. According to the NM Public Education Department (PED), New Mexico's standards rated among best in the nation- Standards, Assessments, Accountability ranked 16th and earned an A. Visit the New Mexico Public Education Department's webpage for Standards for more information- <http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/officesandprograms/instructional-materials/new-mexico-content-standards/>.

### **Educational Standards in New Mexico**

#### **Common Core State Standards**

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts and Mathematics presents a significant opportunity to accelerate and drive education reform toward the goal of ensuring that all children graduate from high school ready for college, work, and competing in the global economy and society. The Common core standards for literacy in science, social studies and the technical subjects supplement the Science and Social Studies content standards in grades 6-12. The Common Core standards are implemented in all grades in New Mexico. The great thing about the CCSS is that most states, Washington, D.C. and the DoDEA school system have adopted these standards, so the educational expectations in the public schools will remain the same across most of the country. New Mexico has adopted an additional 15% of state-specific standards in ELA which focus on cultural responsiveness. For information on how the

Common Core Standards are implemented in New Mexico, please visit <http://newmexicocommoncore.org/>.

### Next Generation Science Standards

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are K-12 science content standards. Standards set the expectations for what student should know and be able to do. The NGSS were developed by states to improve science education for all students. A goal for developing the NGSS was to create a set of research-based, up-to-date K-12 science standards. These standards give local educators the flexibility to design classroom learning experiences that stimulate students' interest in science and prepares them for college, careers, and citizenship. As of December 2019, 20 states, Washington, D.C. and the DoDEA school system have adopted these standards. Another 24 states have developed their own standards based on the National Research Council (NRC) recommendations, which is the framework for the NGSS. For more information, please visit <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>.

### New Mexico State Standards

New Mexico has adopted educational standards to set clear goals for instruction in these subject areas: Social Studies, Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theater/Drama, and Visual Arts), Career and Technical Education, Computer Science, English Language Development, Health Education, Physical Education and Modern, Classical and Native Languages.

### **Special Education**

The New Mexico Public Education Department Special Education Bureau provides oversight for all Special Education in the state. To find out more about New Mexico Public Education Department Special Education Bureau, find statutes, rules and guidance, and a variety of information and resources, visit <http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/officesandprograms/special-education/>.

### **Gifted Education**

In the state of New Mexico, gifted education falls under the Special Education Department. Students are identified through a referral and evaluation process. Programs are developed for each student through the Individualized Education Program (I.E.P.). Gifted services are provided through a variety of classroom models. More information can be found at the NM PED Special Education Bureau website- .

### **Testing in New Mexico: An Overview**

As required in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the new reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), schools in New Mexico administer standardized test to assess student learning. Students in grades 3-8 will take New Mexico's Measures of Student Success and Achievement (NM-MSSA). In grade 10, students will take PSAT 10; and in grade 11, students will take the SAT School Day with Essay.

New Mexico law requires that high school students show competency in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies to graduate. Passing the ESSA-required assessments is one way to do this, but there are other ways for students to show readiness for graduations.

The New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (NMSBA/SBA) is a standards-based test given to assess student learning in Science in 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. The SBA measures specific skills defined for each grade in the NM Content Standards. This test is administered in March. This test will be used to determine competency required for graduation in the science subject area.

Other state mandated testing requires interim assessments in reading with the Istation's Indicators of Progress (ISIP) for students in grades K-2<sup>nd</sup>. These reading assessments are given monthly and three of those monthly scores are used as state benchmarks, in the fall, winter and spring. ISIP is also available for math assessment, but is not required per the state unless the school is participating in the Reading Achievement Math Schools program.

#### District Specific Standardized Testing

Other additional tests that are given are listed below.

##### Albuquerque Public Schools

APS uses i-Ready assessments as their interim assessment. i-Ready offers an adaptive diagnostic assessment for Math and Reading and can also be used as a placement tool. If administered during each recommended window (Fall, Winter, Spring) the assessment program will provide data on student growth and is required for the NM Public Education Department's 90-day plans. APS participates in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), "the Nation's Report Card" and tests a sampling of students in grade 4 (at selected schools), grade 8 (all middle schools) and grade 12 (selected schools).

##### Rio Rancho Public Schools

Rio Rancho uses a test developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) called the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) as their short-cycle assessment. Students in grades K-8 test in language arts, reading and math three times a year. The NWEA is also used in the high schools for intervention information. NWEA results are expressed in RIT scores, which permit comparison of scores across grade levels.

##### Los Lunas Public Schools

Los Lunas schools use the Discovery Education as their short-cycle assessment. They administer this test to students in grades Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade three times a year and students in grades 3-10 twice a year. Students are tested in Math, Language Arts and Reading.

Los Lunas also requires a reading assessment, the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2), to be given to students grades K-6 in the fall and spring.

Kindergarteners in LLPS are given the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) in the fall, winter and spring.

### **Charter Schools**

In Albuquerque and the surrounding area, there are 54 charter schools. APS provides oversight for the majority of schools in the area; The NM Public Education Department provides oversight for the other area charter schools. The New Mexico Statutes state, " The Charter Schools Act [22-8B-1 NMSA 1978] is enacted to enable individual schools to structure their educational curriculum to encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods that are based on reliable research and effective practices or have been replicated successfully in schools with diverse characteristics; to allow the development of different and innovative forms of measuring student learning and achievement; to address the needs of all students, including those determined to be at risk; to create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site; to improve student achievement; to provide parents and students with an educational alternative to create new, innovative and more flexible ways of educating children within the public school system; to encourage parental and community involvement in the public school system; to develop and use site-based budgeting; and to hold charter schools accountable for meeting the department's educational standards and fiscal requirements."

## **New Mexico Graduation Requirements**

State Mandated graduation requirements set minimum levels for required courses and competency levels in reading, writing, math, science and social studies for all schools in the state. The graduation requirements differ depending on what year the student entered high school as a freshmen. Additional requirements vary by school district. State mandates require that students must take one unit of Advance Placement, Honors, dual credit or distance learning as one of the credits required for graduation. Additional district requirements are listed under each district's section.

The basic state requirements are as follows:

English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3 (2 w/lab)
New Mexico History	0.5
Government	0.5
US History & Geography	1
World History & Geography	1
Economics	0.5
Physical Education	1
Practical Arts	1*
Health Education	0.5 or 1
Electives	7.5
Total	24.5 or 25

\* Practical Arts- Courses in career cluster, workplace readiness, or language other than English will satisfy this requirement.

## **Alternative Method of Earning High School Credits**

There are three non-traditional options to earning credits in High School.

### Dual Credit

The purpose of dual credit is to encourage and provide opportunities for high school seniors to take advanced courses concurrently at the high school and post-secondary institutions if they wish to accelerate their learning experiences. Credit for advanced course work taken at a public post-secondary institution may be granted by the high school, subject to established provisions. It is important to work with your child's school in selecting courses for the dual credit program.

The University of New Mexico (UNM) and the Central New Mexico (CNM) community college currently have Dual Credit agreements with many local school districts. For more information on UNM's dual credit program, visit their webpage at <http://advisement.unm.edu/dual-credit/> and for CNM's High School Programs, visit their webpage at <https://www.cnm.edu/depts/outreach/dual-credit>

### Online Courses

Most local districts have online course options for high school credit recovery. Albuquerque Public schools offers online courses for credit recovery or accelerated learning through their eCADEMY School. Rio Rancho allows for students to earn credits for graduation through E-20/20 (Edgenuity). Parents are responsible for all monetary fees for these courses.

### Correspondence Courses

Most districts accept credit toward graduation from correspondence schools accredited by the National Home Study Council, the state board of education of the state in which the school is located, or by a college or university that is regionally accredited for such purposes. The North Central Association *Summer Quarterly* annually lists all colleges and universities accredited to offer courses for high school credit. Students who request information about correspondence courses should be meet with their school counselors to enroll in accredited programs. Matriculation may not interfere with the regular attendance at the high school unless arrangements are made for released time. It is the student's responsibility to provide verification of course completion to the high school.

### **New Mexico PreK**

This program provides early childhood education to four-year-olds to help prepare them for kindergarten at a limited number of public elementary schools and private child development centers throughout the state. Children must be 4 years old on or before 31 August of school year they are attending and meet program eligibility criteria. For additional information, contact your district's Early Childhood Office or the NM PreK Program Manager at (505) 827-6561.

## **General Education Information**

### **Impact Aid**

The mission of the Impact Aid Program is to disburse Impact Aid payments to local educational agencies that are financially burdened by federal activities and to provide technical assistance and support services to staff and other interested parties. At the beginning of each school year, your child's school will send home a form to be completed by a parent or guardian. Please complete and return this form- it is our only means of providing financial support to the local school districts. Since 1940, Congress has provided financial assistance to local school districts through the Impact Aid Program. Impact Aid was designed to assist local school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt Federal property, or that have experienced increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally connected children.

### **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. This Act reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law. ESSA is the national education law that reinforces the longstanding commitment to ensuring equal opportunity for all students. The ESSA provides New Mexico with a long-term stability that holds states, local school systems and schools accountable for results while encouraging them to be innovative in their work. The previous version of the law, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, was enacted in 2002.

### **Military Child Education Coalition**

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is a private organization working to solve the challenge of helping schools and military installations deliver accurate, timely information to meet transitioning parent and student needs, and in the development and education of children from military families. MCEC is an advocate for military connected children and their website has great tools for parents- [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org).