

High School Graduation Requirements Proposal

Academic Subject	Current Requirements (Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978)	Proposed Changes House Bill 171
English	4 Must include a major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing, and literature.	4 Must include a 3-unit sequence; Department-approved work-based learning, career technical education, or English language development courses that meet English or English language development standards may qualify.
Math	4 1 unit must be the equivalent to, or higher than, algebra II.	4 2 units must include a sequence of algebra 1 and geometry, or another integrated pathway of mathematics equivalent to algebra 1 and geometry; Department-approved financial literacy courses, work-based learning, or career technical education courses that meet math academic content and performance standards may qualify. Algebra 2 must be offered in all school districts and charter schools.
Science	3 2 units must include a lab component.	3 2 units must have a laboratory component; Department-approved work-based learning or career technical education courses that meet science academic content and performance standards may qualify.
Social Studies	3.5 Must include U.S. history & geography, world history & geography, government & economics, and 0.5 unit of NM history.	4 3 units are specified. These 3 units must include: 1 unit of United States history and geography, which must include New Mexico history; 1 unit of government and economics/personal financial literacy, which must include civics content, and 1 unit of world history and geography.
Physical Education	1	1 The 1 unit of physical education is determined by the school district or charter school and may include a physical education program that meets state academic content and performance standards, or participation in marching band, dance programs, junior reserve officers' training corps, interscholastic sports sanctioned by the New Mexico activities association, or any other co-curricular physical activity.
Health	A course (not a unit) in health is required prior to graduation, but this may be offered in middle or high school.	0.5 The 0.5 unit of health may be earned in middle or high school.
Electives	7.5 All electives must meet PED content and performance standards.	5.5 Elective units must meet department academic content and performance standards and must include a 2-unit pathway concentration of the student's choice in a language other than English (including American Sign Language), fine arts, health, military career preparation, a career technical education program, community or service learning, a capstone course, or work-based learning. Requires that financial literacy, computer science, student service learning, career technical education courses and a sequence of languages other than English shall be offered as electives. Media literacy and pre-apprenticeship programs <i>may</i> be offered as electives.
Career Cluster, Workplace Readiness, or a Language other than English	1	<i>Requires a two-unit elective pathway of the student's choice, which may include a language other than English.</i>
Additional Requirements	At least 1 unit must be Advanced Placement or honors, dual credit, or distance learning.	<i>Includes language protecting a student's ability to take Advanced Placement, honors, dual credit, distance learning, and International Baccalaureate courses. Requires information about these options to be incorporated into Next Step Plans.</i>

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Local Discretion Units		<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Local school districts and charter schools must set 2 additional units for graduation requirements. These must meet academic content and performance standards and can be elective units or core academic units.</p> <p>Requires that local discretion units are accepted by receiving schools if a student were to transfer schools.</p>
Total Units	24	24
Additional Requirements		
<p>Next Step Plans</p> <p>Next Step Plans are personal advising plans developed for each student that specify a student's post- high school goals and outline the coursework needed for a student to achieve their individual goals.</p>	<p>Requires Next Step Plans to be developed in eighth grade and each year of high school.</p>	<p>Maintains the development of Next Step Plans by requiring these to be developed at the end of eighth grade and each year of high school.</p> <p>Strengthens these plans by requiring these to be aligned to locally-driven graduate profiles and for these to be completed on department-approved templates.</p> <p>Also requires Next Step Plans to include options such Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, honors, dual credit, distance learning, career technical education, and work-based learning courses, or pre-apprenticeship programs.</p>
<p>Graduate Profiles</p> <p>Graduate profiles are a national best practice in which school districts and charter schools specify the cognitive, personal, and interpersonal competencies students should have when they graduate. They are locally-driven and tailored to each community, but allow for robust visioning about the purpose of a high school education.</p>	<p>Not required in current law.</p>	<p>Requires the development of a locally-driven graduate profile by all school districts and charter schools. Graduate profiles must be specific to each community and articulate the core competencies and subjects that are key to a graduates' post-high school success.</p>
<p>Additional Statutory Notes</p>		<p>The bill protects a school district or charter school's authority to require more units for graduation.</p> <p>The bill also protects a student's opportunity to take Advanced Placement, honors, International Baccalaureate, distance learning, and dual credit courses.</p>