

**Board of Education**

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J. Vance Lee Superintendent  
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## CAPITAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### *AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

1. Board Meeting Date: June 15, 2026
2. Item Title: V.B.6 CMS Board Policy I-7350/IKF Graduation Requirements - First Reading
3. Name of Presenter: J. Vance Lee, Superintendent
4. This item is for: \_\_\_ Action \_\_\_ Consent Agenda XX Discussion \_\_\_ Report/Information
5. Proposed Motion (Action Items Only): N/A, as presented.
6. Executive Summary: Please see attached.

**I-7350      IKF**  
**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The purpose of this policy is to establish graduation requirements for the students of Capitan Municipal Schools.

In order to receive a diploma, students must meet all specified requirements as established by the Capitan Municipal Schools Board of Education and the State of New Mexico as outlined in §22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 and 6.29.1.1 NMAC.

Students entering the ninth grade after 2008, including special education students with an Individualized Education Program (6.29.1.9-J-13 NMAC), must complete twenty-seven (27) high school credits to be eligible for a diploma.

At the end of grade eight (8) through eleven (11), each student shall prepare an interim next step plan that identifies the coursework for the grades remaining until graduation. The plan shall explain any differences from previous next-step plans and shall be filed electronically in the District's student information system. A copy of the plan signed by the student, the student's parent, and the student's guidance counselor or other school official charged with coursework planning for the student shall be filed with the high school principal.

An individualized education program (IEP) that meets all applicable transition and procedural requirements of the federal Individual with Disabilities Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy the next-step plan requirements.

The next step planning process shall be based on reports of college and workplace readiness assessments, as available, and other factors to ensure that a student is informed about curricular and course options, including honor or advanced placement courses, dual credit courses, and distance learning courses.

Once a student has entered ninth (9th) grade, the graduation requirements shall not be changed for that student from the requirements specified in New Mexico statutes or the Capitan Board of Education at the time the student entered ninth (9th) grade, unless amended via New Mexico statutes and adopted by the New Mexico Public Education Department and the Capitan Board of Education.

Marching band, junior reserve officers' training corps or any other co-curricular physical activity may qualify as the required physical education requirement.

Final examinations shall be administered to all students in all classes offered for credit.

Parents are to be notified in writing at the beginning of second semester and again at the conclusion of the third (3rd) nine (9)-weeks grading period of their student's senior year if the student is at risk of not meeting all graduation requirements. Progress reports are to be provided to parents and students at each grading period.

A high school student required to transfer to an out-of-state school by the transfer of the student's parents, who are members of the New Mexico National Guard or the armed forces of the United States, may request that a diploma be issued by the New Mexico high school of transfer. The student must meet the guidelines and comply with the requirements of the New Mexico Statutes regarding military dependent transfers and their courses and grades must meet or exceed New Mexico's requirements for graduation as determined by the School District.

Bilingual education shall be provided to meet the identified educational and linguistic needs of identified students as part of their program of studies.

A student shall not be awarded a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence if the student has not demonstrated competency in the subject areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing, social studies, and science, including a section of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of New Mexico based on standards-based assessments or has completed a locally developed alternative demonstration of competency.

### Graduation Requirements

The passing of HB 171 on February 9, 2025 updates high school graduation requirements through cohort 2028 and includes updates to high school graduation requirements beginning with cohort 2029 as outlined below:

Subject Area	Units	Additional Information
English	4.0	English I, II, III* and IV
Mathematics	4.0	One class must be equivalent to or higher than Algebra II* or higher, unless the parent submits written, signed permission for the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit; and provided that a financial literacy course that meet state mathematics content standards shall qualify as one of the four required mathematics units
Science	3.0	Two must have a laboratory component
Social Studies	3.5	New Mexico History (.5); World History and geography (1); US History and geography (1*); Government and economics (1)
Physical Education	1.0	Participation in marching band, junior reserve officers' training corps, or interscholastic sports sanctioned by the New Mexico Activities Association, or

		any other co-curricular physical activity may qualify for PE requirement
Health	0.5	May be taken in the 8th grade
Career Cluster, Workplace Readiness or a Language other than English	1.0	See your counselor to find out what classes fulfill this requirement
Electives	10	-
TOTAL CREDITS	27	-
One (1) credit must be earned in an Honors, Dual Credit, AP Course, or online/distance learning course.		
*If a student does not earn "proficient" scores on their state-mandated Graduation Exam, but they have taken the test every time required, then the student may earn the right to use an Alternative Demonstration of Competency (ADC). One of the ADC's requires a student to pass specific courses and their End of Course (EOC) exam. Examples of classes and tests they must pass are English III, Algebra II, US History, Biology or Chemistry. Check specific details with the school counselor.		



# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH COHORT 2028

## 27 Credits

<b>COURSE WORK</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 16.6%;"><b>ENGLISH</b> 4 CREDITS</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"><b>MATH</b> 4 CREDITS</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"><b>SCIENCE</b> 3 CREDITS</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"><b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> 3.5 CREDITS</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;"><b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> 1 CREDIT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ELA1</td> <td>Algebra 1</td> <td>Lab Science</td> <td>NM History</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ELA2</td> <td>Geometry</td> <td>Lab Science</td> <td>US History</td> <td><b>HEALTH</b> 0.5 CREDIT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ELA3</td> <td>Algebra 2</td> <td>Science</td> <td>World History</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ELA4</td> <td>4th Math</td> <td></td> <td>Government/Economics</td> <td><b>CAREER CLUSTER, - WORKPLACE</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>ELD courses satisfy requirement</i></td> <td><i>One credit must be at the level of Algebra 2 or higher</i></td> <td></td> <td><i>0.5 credit in NM History</i></td> <td><b>READINESS, OR LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH</b> 1 CREDIT</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">One credit must be honors, dual credit, distance learning, or AP.</p> <p><b>MIDDLE SCHOOL CREDITS</b></p> <p>The following credits earned prior to enrolling in high school will meet the graduation requirements: Algebra 1, Health, and NM History (0.5 credit)</p> <p><b>COURSE WAIVERS</b></p> <p>Any deviation from the prescribed graduation requirements must be approved by the PED via a coursework waiver.</p> <p>Graduation coursework waivers are obtained from the PED Waivers webpage and submitted to: <a href="mailto:Waivers.PED@ped.nm.gov">Waivers.PED@ped.nm.gov</a></p>	<b>ENGLISH</b> 4 CREDITS	<b>MATH</b> 4 CREDITS	<b>SCIENCE</b> 3 CREDITS	<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> 3.5 CREDITS	<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> 1 CREDIT	ELA1	Algebra 1	Lab Science	NM History		ELA2	Geometry	Lab Science	US History	<b>HEALTH</b> 0.5 CREDIT	ELA3	Algebra 2	Science	World History		ELA4	4th Math		Government/Economics	<b>CAREER CLUSTER, - WORKPLACE</b>	<i>ELD courses satisfy requirement</i>	<i>One credit must be at the level of Algebra 2 or higher</i>		<i>0.5 credit in NM History</i>	<b>READINESS, OR LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH</b> 1 CREDIT	<b>ELECTIVES</b> 10 CREDITS
<b>ENGLISH</b> 4 CREDITS	<b>MATH</b> 4 CREDITS	<b>SCIENCE</b> 3 CREDITS	<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> 3.5 CREDITS	<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> 1 CREDIT																												
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<b>NEXT STEP PLAN</b>	<p>On July 1, 2003, HB305 was signed into law, requiring high school students to create Next Step Plans, which set personal high school goals beginning in grade 8. The Final Next Step Plan is a mandatory prerequisite for graduation.</p>																															
<b>DOC</b>	<p>With the signing of HB171 into law, students no longer need to demonstrate competency (formerly known as DOC) in the five subject areas of mathematics, reading, writing, science, and social studies. However, per 6.29.1 NMAC, General Provisions, a final examination shall be administered to all students in all courses offered for credit. Additionally, high school students are still required to participate in ESSA testing as assigned at grade 10 and grades 9-12 if identified as an English learner who has not met the state's exit criteria.</p>																															

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS BEGINNING WITH COHORT 2029



## 27 Credits

<p><b>COURSE WORK</b></p>	<p><b>ENGLISH</b> 4 CREDITS</p> <p>ELA1 ELA2 ELA3 4th English <i>ELD Courses satisfy requirement. CTE or WBL can meet this requirement</i></p>	<p><b>MATH</b> 4 CREDITS</p> <p>Algebra 1 Geometry 3rd Math 4th Math <i>CTE or WBL can meet this requirement</i></p>	<p><b>SCIENCE</b> 3 CREDITS</p> <p>Lab Science Lab Science Science <i>CTE or WBL can meet this requirement</i></p>	<p><b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> 4 CREDITS</p> <p>USHistoryw/NM History World History Government/Economics 4th Social Studies <i>NM History can be offered as a stand-alone course</i></p>	<p><b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> 1 CREDIT</p>	<p><b>HEALTH</b> 0.5 CREDIT</p>	<p><b>ELECTIVES</b> 8.5 CREDITS <i>Must include a 2-credit pathway concentration of the student's choice</i></p>	<p><b>LOCAL REQUIREMENT</b> 2 CREDITS <i>Two credits set by each local school board or governing body that meet department academic content and performance standard</i></p>
	<p><b>Algebra 2, Financial Literacy, and Computer Science shall be offered.</b> <b>A student shall still have the opportunity to take Dual Credit, Honors, and AP courses.</b></p>							
	<p><b>MIDDLE SCHOOL CREDITS</b></p>							
	<p>Through HB171, the following credits earned prior to enrolling in high school will meet the graduation requirements: <b>Algebra 1, Geometry, and Health</b></p>							
	<p><b>COURSE WAIVERS</b></p>							
	<p>Any deviation from the prescribed graduation requirements must be approved by the PED via a coursework waiver. Graduation coursework waivers are obtained from the PED Waivers web page and submitted to: <a href="mailto:Waivers.PED@ped.nm.gov">Waivers.PED@ped.nm.gov</a></p>							
<p><b>NEXT STEP PLAN</b></p>	<p>On July 1, 2003, HB305 was signed into law, requiring high school students to create Next Step Plans, which set personal high school goals beginning in grade 8. The Next Step Plan shall be aligned to the graduate profile. The Final Next Step Plan is a mandatory prerequisite for graduation.</p>							
	<p>The PED has partnered with Level All to make a virtual Next Step Plan available to all New Mexico school districts at no cost. To schedule a demo or roll out implementation, contact: <a href="mailto:newmexico@levelall.com">newmexico@levelall.com</a></p>							
<p><b>GRAD PROFILE</b></p>	<p>With the signing of HB171 into law, each school district or charter school shall create and use a graduate profile to specify the cognitive, personal, and interpersonal competencies that students should have when they graduate. The core academic competencies and subjects identified in a school district's or charter school's graduate profile shall align with required graduation credits.</p>							
	<p>The PED has partnered with Advance CTE to provide FREE resources including standards and guidance. For more information, contact: Brenna Barlett, Director of Technical Assistance at Advance CTE, <a href="mailto:bbartlett@careertech.org">bbartlett@careertech.org</a></p>							

# COHORT 2029 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)



<p><b>CTE / WBL FOR CORE CREDIT</b></p>	<p><b>GENERAL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p>Students must earn credit in the following courses with a passing grade of C or better:</p> <p>English: English 1, English 2, and English 3</p> <p>Math: Algebra 1 and Geometry or Integrated Math 1 and Integrated Math 2</p> <p>Science: Two lab sciences</p> <p>The CTE/WBL teacher of record must hold the proper licenses in the core content areas.</p> <p><b>3 Paths</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Core Content Standards Crosswalk</li> <li>2. Mastery Scores             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. English and Math                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>PSAT 10 &amp; PSAT/NMSQT</b> (Reading/Writing 430+, Math 480+)</li> <li>ii. <b>SAT School Day</b> (Reading/Writing 480+, Math 530+)</li> <li>iii. <b>Work Keys</b> (Career Readiness Certificate - Silver NCRC Level)</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Science                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>Assessment of Science Readiness (ASR)</b> (1160+)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>3. CTE/WBL Capstone Completer Course</li> </ol> <p>Refer to the CTE/WBL (Career Technical Education / Work-Based Learning) Core Credit Guidance Manual for instructions on submitting documentation.</p>
<p><b>STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES</b></p>	<p><b>PATHWAYS</b></p> <p><b>Standard Diploma Pathway</b></p> <p>Traditional route for students who meet the general education requirements, including the completion of coursework and state assessments. Students with disabilities can participate in the Standard Diploma Pathway, but accommodations and modifications may be made to help them meet these requirements.</p> <p><b>Ability Diploma Pathway</b></p> <p>Specifically designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. This pathway offers a more tailored curriculum and assessment plan that better aligns with the individual needs of students who are unable to meet the academic standards required for a standard diploma.</p> <p>To qualify for this pathway, students must meet specific criteria indicating that they have significant cognitive disabilities. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cognitive functioning and adaptive behavior significantly below age expectations, even with program modifications and accommodations.</li> <li>An inability to participate in general state assessments, even with accommodations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Graduation Requirements Questions Form</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:PED.Assessment@ped.nm.gov">PED.Assessment@ped.nm.gov</a> for assessment related questions.</p> <p><a href="mailto:Grad.Questions@ped.nm.gov">Grad.Questions@ped.nm.gov</a> for graduation coursework questions.</p> <p><a href="mailto:OSE.Sup.port@ped.nm.gov">OSE.Sup.port@ped.nm.gov</a> for special education programs of study questions.</p>

If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade twelve (12) without having satisfied the above requirements, the student shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the grade completed. Students issued a certificate may provide alternative demonstrations of competency within five (5) years of exiting the school system in order to satisfy competency in require core content areas and earn a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence.

The Superintendent shall develop a regulation for the enforcement of this policy.

*Adopted:* ~~May 18, 2022~~ July \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

LEGAL REF.: [22-13-1.1 NMSA \(1978\)](#)

[22-13-1.4 NMSA \(1978\)](#)

6.19.7 NMAC

6.29.1.9 NMAC

CROSS REF.: [IGD](#) - Curriculum Adoption

[IGE](#) - Curriculum Guides and Course Outlines

[IHA](#) - Basic Instructional Program

[IIE](#) - Student Schedules and Course Loads

[IKA](#) - Grading/Assessment Systems

[JFABC](#) - Admission of Transfer Students

[JG](#) - Assignment of Students to Classes