

## Instruction

### Graduation Requirements

**Purpose:**

The Gadsden Independent School District specifies graduation requirements for all students. These requirements meet and in some instances exceed the requirements specified in the New Mexico Standards for Excellence.

**Participants:**

All students graduating with a diploma or a certificate of completion

**Process:**

Students must successfully complete the following requirements for graduation:

1. Four (4) credits in English
2. Three (3) credits in Mathematics
3. Three (3) credits in Science, one of which must have a laboratory component
4. Three (4) credits in Social Sciences
  1. New Mexico History and Geography – 1 credit
  2. Principles of Democracy (U.S. Governments/Economics) - 1 credit
  3. United States History/Geography - 1 credit
  4. World History/Geography - 1 credit
5. One (1) credit in Physical Education/Health
6. One (1) credit in Communication Skills
7. Two (2) credits in Foreign Language
8. Eleven (10) elective credits

For students enrolling or re-enrolling in the Gadsden Independent School District:

1. Credits shall be transferable with no loss of value between schools that are accredited.
2. Students transferring from a home school or private school to the district shall be placed at the grade level appropriate to the age of the student, or to the student's score on an achievement test administered according to the statewide or district testing programs.
3. Credits earned through correspondence or extension study may be accepted if such credits are from schools approved or accredited by the National Home Study Counsel, the State Board of Education, of the state in which they are located, or by a college or university which is regionally accredited for such purposes.
4. A final examination shall be administered to all students in all courses offered for credit.
5. A student cannot take the same course twice for credit.
6. Concurrent enrollment credit, both academic and vocational, may be earned

simultaneously from both the public school district and the post-secondary institution(s). Concurrent enrollment requires an agreement between the two entities.

7. A student shall receive a high school diploma if he/she has passes a state competency examination in the subject areas of language arts, writing, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade twelve without having passed a state competency examination, he/she shall receive a certificate of completion indicating the number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a student exits from the school system he/she takes and passes the state competency examination, he/she may receive a high school diploma.
8. While enrolled in middle school, students who qualify may take designated courses offered at the High School level for credit to meet High School graduation requirements.
9. In order to participate in the high school graduation ceremony, students must have satisfactorily completed the required twenty-eight (28) credits and passed all six (6) areas of the New Mexico High School Competency Exam. Students on an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) must have satisfactorily completed a planned program of study as determined by the IEP committee.
10. All high schools will identify and recognize the top 10% of the graduation class as part of the graduation ceremony.

For students with disabilities, the Individualized Educational Program (IEP) team is responsible for determining whether a student with disabilities has completed a planned program of study making him/her eligible to receive a diploma or certificate. Graduation plans must be part of all IEP's. Upon completion of a planned program of study the student will be awarded a diploma. A student may be awarded a diploma using any of the following programs of study:

1. A standard program of study is based upon meeting or surpassing all requirements for graduation based upon New Mexico Standards for Excellence with or without reasonable modification of delivery and assessment methods.
2. A career readiness program of study is based upon meeting the State Board of Education's Career Readiness Standards with Benchmarks as defined in the IEP with or without reasonable modifications of delivery and assessment methods.
3. An ability program of study is based upon meeting or surpassing IEP goals and objectives with or without reasonable modification of delivery and assessment methods, referencing skill attainment at a student's ability level which may lead to meaningful employment.

A student who receives special education services may be granted a certificate of completion when:

1. The IEP team provides documentation and justification for the use of a certificate for an individual student and a follow-up plan of action.
2. A student who receives a certificate is eligible to continue receiving special education services until receipt of a diploma or until the end of the academic year in which the student turns twenty-two years of age.

**Timeline:**

Ongoing during enrollment in grades eight through twelve.

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1. Code of Federal Regulation 34 (34. CFR) page 300 & ff
2. New Mexico Statutes 1978 annotated Chapters 22 and 22a 1998 replacement Chapter : article 2 - 8.3
3. New Mexico Statutes 1978 annotated Chapters 22 and 22a 1998 replacement Chapter : article 2 -8.4 Section D
4. New Mexico Standards for Excellence 6 NMAC 6.30.2.10 Section 9 parts A & B, H &
5. New Mexico State Regulations 90-2 Amendment 2
6. New Mexico State Regulations 90-2 Amendment A, D-1
7. HB 139, 2005

Replaces Policy: IKF