

General Information on New Mexico Education

Early Enrollment

Children of military families relocating to New Mexico by official military order, may enroll their children prior to their actual physical presence in the district. Proof of residence in the school district must be provided within 45 days of published arrival.

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 school 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 the New Mexico Children's Education Council is the committee that oversees its enforcement throughout the state. The Kirtland AFB 377 Mission Support Commander is the appointed DoD representative, and the Kirtland AFB School Liaison Program Manager is the New Mexico Subject Matter Expert for the council. The committee meets at least once annually. Ms. Teresa Ferenczhalmy is the NM Commission on the national Military Interstate Children Compact Commission (MIC3). 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

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, including contact information, visit www.mic3.net.

Immunizations

The state of New Mexico requires all students to be fully immunized against Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP), Polio (OPV or IPV), Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR), Hepatitis B and Varicella. Proof of Immunity for Varicella is receipt of vaccine, titer, or laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of prior disease. For all newly diagnosed Varicella cases, laboratory confirmation of disease is required. Students must have two doses of Hepatitis A (HepA) for entry into kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade. All students must have their Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) for entry into 7th grade and beyond. All students must have 1 dose of Meningococcal (ACWY) vaccinations for entry into 7th - 10th grade, and 2 doses for 11th grade (at age 16). COVID-19, Influenza (flu), and HPV vaccinations are not required but are strongly recommended as is considered best practice.

Exemptions from school immunization requirements are only allowed for medical or religious reasons. The state law does not grant immunization exemptions for philosophical or personal reasons. Please review the New Mexico Department of Health Immunization Program Website at <https://www.nmhealth.org/about/phd/idb/imp/sreq/>. For information call the New Mexico Immunization Toll Free Hotline (833) 882-6454.

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 attended 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 Program Manager 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 (ELA), Spanish Language Arts (SLA) 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 are periodically reviewed and revised. Visit the New Mexico Public Education Department's webpage for Standards for more information on the standards and for the NM Instructional Scopes-
<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, Spanish 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 and SLA which focus on cultural responsiveness.

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 2023, 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, Visual & Performing Arts Education, Career and Technical Education, Computer Science, English Language Development, Spanish Language Development, Health Education, Physical Education and World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages.

Special Education

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

New Mexico Office of the Special Education Ombud

The Office the Special Education Ombud provides comprehensive information, resources, and support to public school students and families navigating the special education system in New Mexico. For more information, visit <https://www.nmddpc.com/office-of-special-education-ombud>.

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 (IEP). Gifted services are provided through a variety of classroom models. The NM Gifted Technical Assistance Manual can be found on the NM PED Special Education Bureau website- <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/special-education/technical-manuals/>.

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 tests to assess student learning. To measure mastery in math and language arts, students in grades 3-8 will take New Mexico's Measures of Student Success and Achievement (NM-MSSA) and students in grade 11 will take the SAT School Day. The New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR) is a standards-based test given to assess student learning in science in 5th, 8th, and 11th grades. These tests are administered in the spring.

New Mexico law requires that high school students show competency in reading, writing, mathematics, 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 graduation.

Other state mandated testing requires interim assessments for Math and Language Arts in grades 3-8 administered three time each year for benchmarking student progress. Interim testing is conducted at the beginning-of-year (fall), middle-of-year (winter), and end-of-year (spring). Interim assessments in reading with the Istation's Indicators of Progress (ISIP) are required for students in grades K-2nd. 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. All preschool and kindergarten students must be assessed using the Early Childhood Observation Tool.

Additionally, all 1st grade students must be screened for dyslexia by the 40th day of school or within two weeks of initial enrollment for students new to New Mexico.

For more information on the Assessments used in New Mexico, visit <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/assessment-3/quick-communications/>.

District Specific Standardized Testing

Other additional tests that are given are listed below.

Albuquerque Public Schools

APS uses Istation ISIP Reading and i-Ready assessments as their interim assessments for elementary and middle schools, given three times a school year. Station ISIP is now required for students in 3rd grade. i-Ready reading is required for students in 4th-8th grade. i-Ready Math is required for all students K-8th grade. APS uses NWEA Map Growth and CB Suite for interim assessments in high school (9th-12th grade). 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

No information available on their website

Los Lunas Public Schools

No current information available on their website

Moriarty-Edgewood School District

No information available on their website

Charter Schools

In the greater Albuquerque area, there are 62 charter schools. APS provides oversight for the roughly half of schools in the area; The NM Public Education Department provides oversight for the other area charter schools. In the wider surrounding areas, including Santa Fe, Socorro, Gallup and Jemez Pueblo, there are an additional 11 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.”

The listing of charter schools in this handbook includes more information on the specific focus of each school.

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. 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.

New Mexico law requires that high school students show competency in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies to graduate. Passing the federal and state required assessments, SAT School Day, and NM Assessment of Science Readiness, is one way to do this, but there are other ways for students to show readiness for graduation.

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

*One credit equivalent or higher than Algebra II

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

*** Health Education may be taken in middle or high school and is not counted in the total credit 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. Los Lunas Schools also offers credit recovery through a computer-based program.

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 free early childhood education to young children to help prepare them for kindergarten at a limited number of public elementary schools (four-year-olds) and private child development centers (three- and four-year-olds) throughout the state. Children must meet the age requirements 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. The listing of Preschool/PreKindergarten programs in this handbook includes more information on the accredited programs in the state. For more information or to find a program with a private provider, you can visit <https://www.newmexicokids.org/quality-programs/nm-prek/>.

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.