

4.5.14 Course credit:

- a. Credit granted for course work in high school should be an expression of achievement. There should be stated expected outcomes as a result of satisfactory completion of a course of study.
- b. A student shall receive credit for a course when he demonstrates he has achieved at least the minimum requirement for satisfactory completion as determined by the school district.

4.5.15 Graduation Requirements for a New Mexico High School Diploma

- a. The quality of a student's education, rather than the acquisition of specific number of units, shall be the primary concern.
- b. To graduate, a student shall earn at least twenty (20) units in a four-year high school or fifteen (15) units in a three-year high school commencing with the freshman class 1976-77.
 - (1) Language Arts (communication skills) - 4 units for students enrolled in four year high schools or 3 units for students enrolled in three year high schools commencing with the freshman class of 1978-79.
 - (2) Mathematics - 1 unit.
 - (3) Social Studies - 2 units. 1 unit United States History and 1/2 unit in Civics/Government and 1/2 unit in any other Social Studies field. The Civics/Government requirement commences with the freshman class of 1978-79.
 - (4) Laboratory Science - 1 unit in chemistry, physics, biology or any other laboratory science.
 - (5) Physical Education - 1 unit (must be earned in high school). Exemption shall require a certificate signed by a licensed medical doctor, osteopath or chiropractor.
 - (6) Practical Arts - 1 unit. Credit in any vocational course may also be used to satisfy this requirement.

These are minimal requirements. However, local districts may establish academic or vocational requirements beyond those prescribed by the New Mexico Board of Education.

- c. Credits earned through correspondence or extension study may be accepted if such credits are from schools approved or accredited by the National Home Study Council, the state board of education of the state in which they are domiciled, or by a college or university which is regionally accredited for such purposes.
- d. A school district may waive or substitute courses required for graduation on approval by the state superintendent. The school district must request the superintendent's approval in writing and verify that it is in the student's best interest.
- e. The State Board of Education shall issue a "New Mexico High School Diploma" to all persons at least 18 years of age who meet the State G.E.D. certification requirements (State Board Regulations 73-19).
- f. A special education student may receive a certificate upon completion of a planned course of study.
- g. Students who successfully complete the requirements of the New Mexico High School Proficiency Examination shall receive an endorsement so stating on their diplomas. (This becomes effective with the graduating class of 1981).