

4.5.13 Admission requirements:

- a. Students shall be admitted to a high school on completing satisfactorily the preceding grade level or required subject matter. School administrators may admit other students when in their judgment it is in the best interest of the student and the school.
- b. Credits from any school approved by a state board of education shall be accepted at another school at the same relative value which the receiving school grants such courses.
- c. Credits earned in post-secondary classes may be substituted for required high school courses at the discretion of the high school principal. In such cases, the principal and student should plan jointly the course of study prior to enrollment.

4.5.14 Course credit:

- a. Credit granted for course work in high school should be an expression of achievement. There should be stated outcomes expected as a result of satisfactory completion of a course of study.
- b. A student shall receive credit for a course when the individual demonstrates achievement of 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.
 - (1) Language arts (communication skills)--four (4) units for students enrolled in four-year high schools or three (3) units for students enrolled in three-year high schools.
 - (2) Mathematics--one (1) unit.

- (3) Social studies--two (2) units: One (1) unit in United States history and one-half (1/2) unit in civics/government and one-half (1/2) unit in any other social studies field.
- (4) Laboratory science--one (1) unit in chemistry, physics, biology, or any other laboratory science.
- (5) Physical education--one (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--one (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 GED certification requirements. (State Board Regulation 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.