Presentation for the Legislative Education Study Committee

NM Graduation Requirements: Student Choice and Engagement

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College and Career Readiness Bureau

June 25, 2025

A Presentation by the New Mexico Public Education Department

Congratulations Class of 2024

- The Class of 2024 four-year cohort accomplished a 78.04 percent graduation rate – a 1.34 percentage point increase from the prior year. This rate is both the highest graduation rate and the highest total number of graduating students in the last 15 years!
- Also noteworthy, career technical education (CTE) concentrators achieved a 95.77 percent overall graduation rate!
- Shout out to Roswell Early College High School for being among the Top 10, seeing a 96.52 percent graduation rate!

High School Graduation Strategies

Schools that achieved high graduation rates or made significant gains for Cohort 2024 shared several common strategies:

- Close monitoring of student course completion and credit accumulation
- Implementation of early warning systems to identify and support at-risk students
- Strategic planning through school improvement plans, which helped schools align resources and interventions to student needs
- Participation in Perkins and Nextgen CTE programs
- Ensuring that students set personal goals through their Next Step Plan prior to entering high school

Implementing the New Graduation Requirements

Key Change 1: Remove Certain Requirements

Removed…	Beginning with…
Demonstrations of competency	Class of 2024
Algebra 2	Class of 2029
Advanced placement ®, honors, dual credit or distance learning units	Class of 2029
Modified diploma pathway	Class of 2029

Key Change 2: Incorporate Best Practices

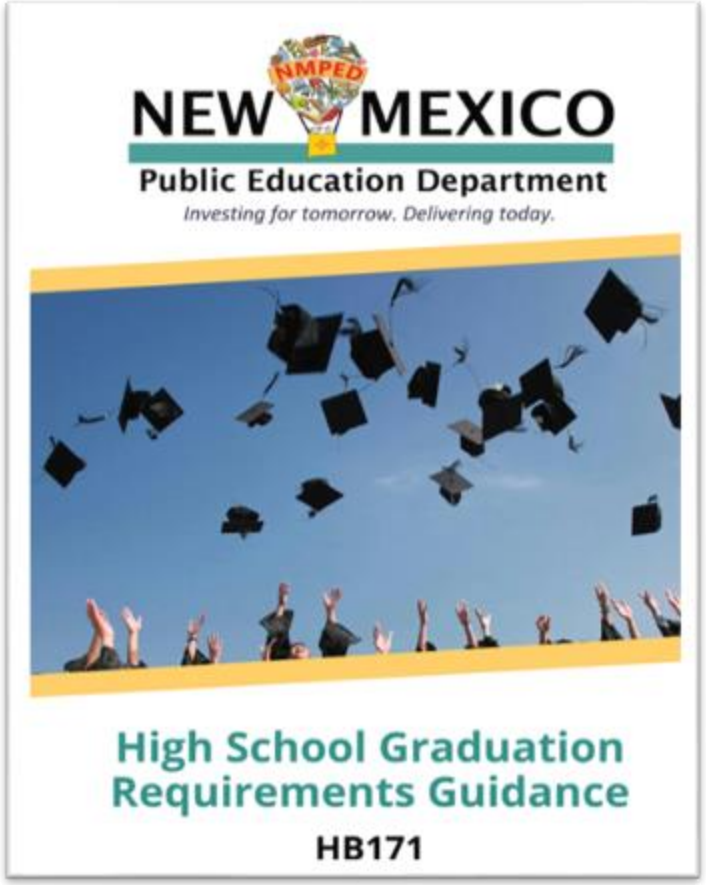
- Career technical education and work-based learning for core credit
  - ✓ English
  - ✓ Math
  - ✓ Science
- Credits prior to high school
  - ✓ Health
  - ✓ Algebra 1
  - ✓ Geometry
- Graduate Profiles and NextStep Plans required

Key Change 3: Increased Flexibility

- Student choice
  - ✓ The 5.5 electives required must include a 2-unit pathway concentration of the student's choice. Choices can include career and technical education (CTE), fine arts, languages other than English.
- Local choice
  - ✓ Two units set by each local school board or governing body that meet department academic content and performance standards.

Graduation Requirements Resources

- Graduation Manual
- Graduation Manual Memo
- Demonstration of Competency Memo
- Graduation Requirements Cohort 2029+ Flyer
- Graduation Requirements Cohort 2028- Flyer
- Graduation Coursework Checklists
- Frequently Asked Questions Page



Funding Supports

- Career Technical Education
- Innovation Zones
- Work-Based Learning
- Regional Workshops and Professional Development – Goals include:
  - Ensuring proper course codes are used
  - Ensuring proper licensure requirements are met
  - Ensuring that LEAs understand the graduation requirements
- Training for parents and students on graduation requirements

NextStep Plans
Level All Platform

Next Step Plans

- A Next Step Plan (NSP) is an interim plan, aligned to the graduate profile of the student's school district or charter school, that sets forth the coursework for the grades remaining until high school graduation. During senior year, the student will complete a final next-step plan prior to graduation.
- NSPs have been required for students in grades 8-12 since 2003.
- NSPs are spot-checked by bureaus during monitoring visits. The College and Career Readiness Bureau does this through Perkins Monitoring.
- Each school district and high school could have a unique NSP template, creating challenges when a student transfers.

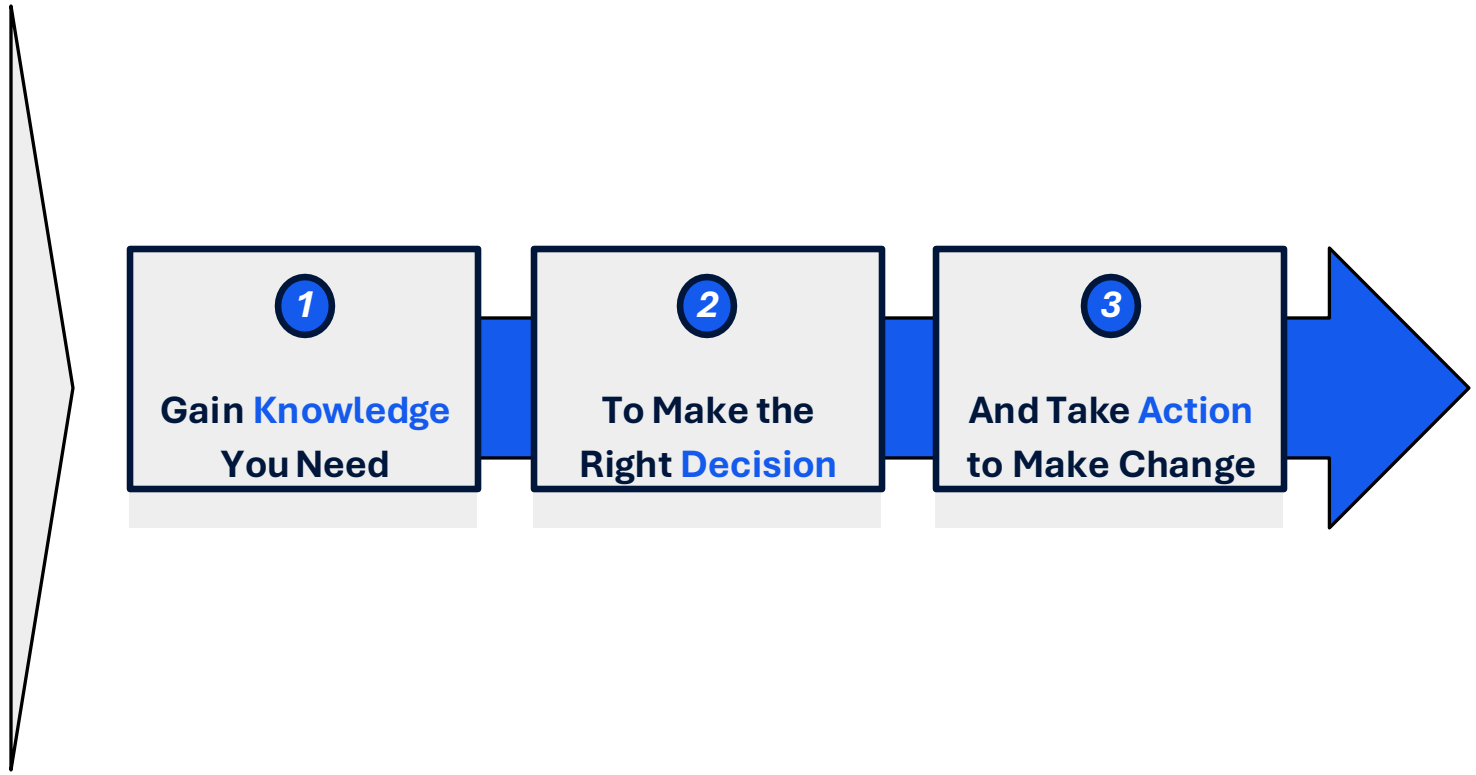
The Level All Solution

Key pillars of Level All are designed to support students, families, and educators

1. Comprehensive Content Library

Wide breadth and depth of content to help inform all aspects of college and career planning

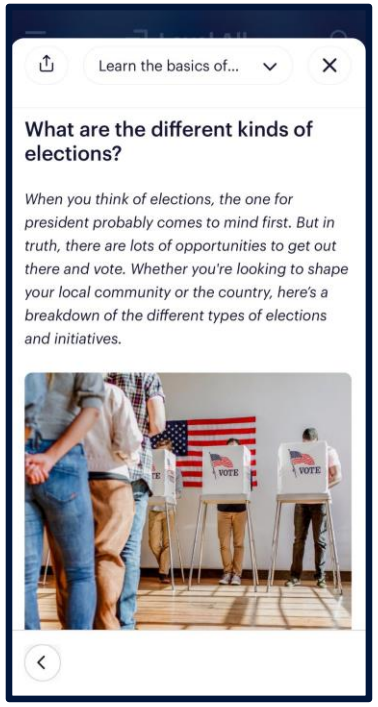
- High School Success
- College Planning & Affording College
- College Transition & Success
- College Alternatives
- Career Skills
- Career Exploration & Exposure
- Financial Literacy
- Life Skills
- Leadership Development



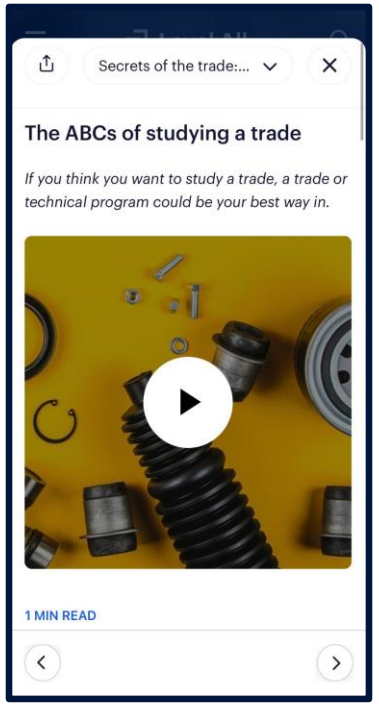
2. Multiple Formats of Engagement

Media of all types to meet users where they are

Articles

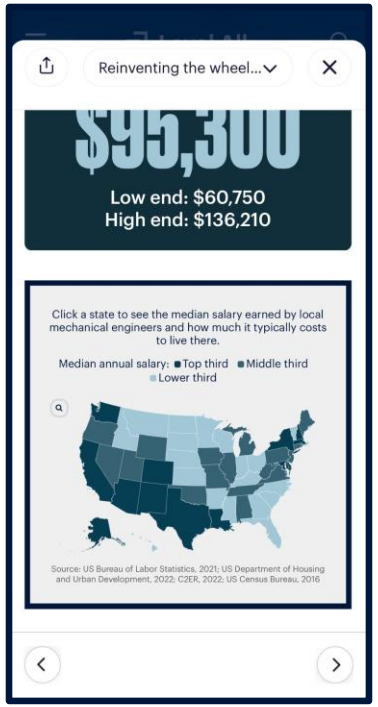


Video, Audio

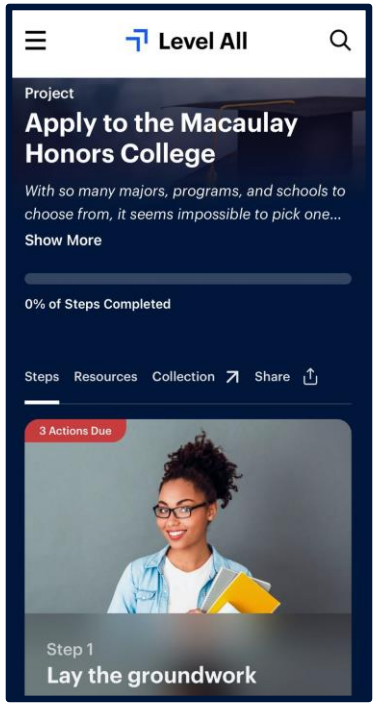


Slideshows

Infographics



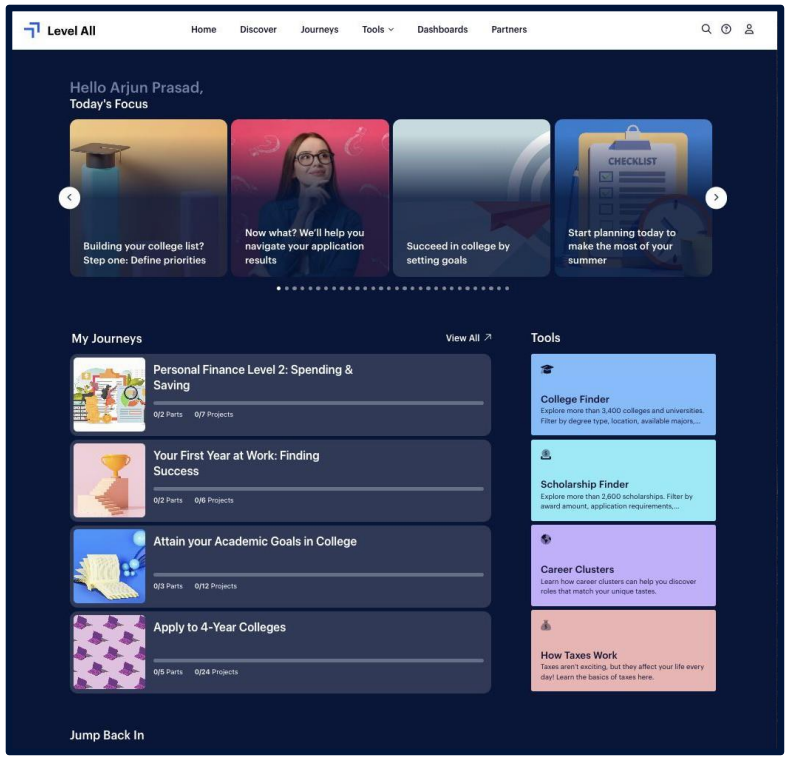
Projects



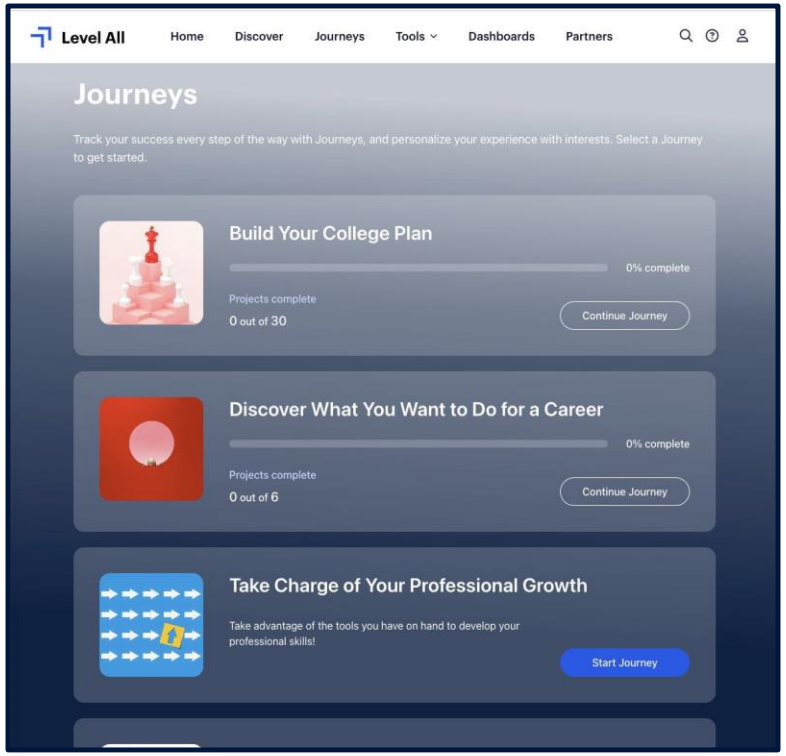
3. Personalized Journey

Content is surfaced that is relevant to your personalized journey, based on your skills

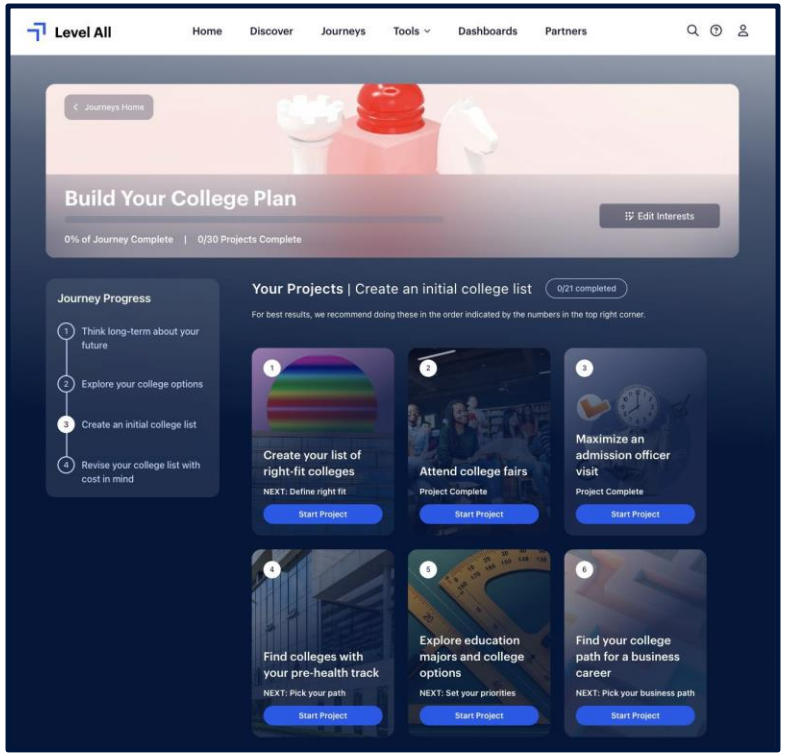
Home Page:
Personalized for Each User



Journey Landing Page:
Custom Pathways to Guide Success



Individual Journeys:
Step-by-Step Guides for Easy Action



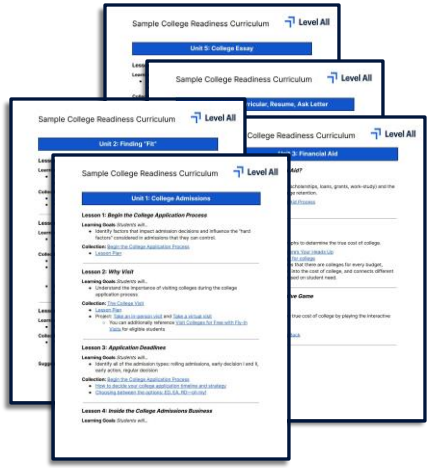
4. Customized Support for Partners

Educator tools and content from your Dedicated Success Team to ensure full use and access to Level All resources

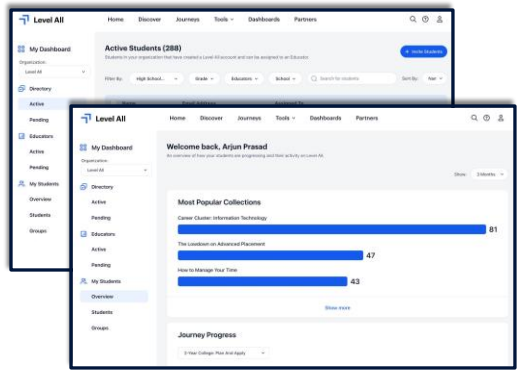
Lesson Plans
Bring Learning to Life in the Classroom

Presentations
Downloadable PowerPoints

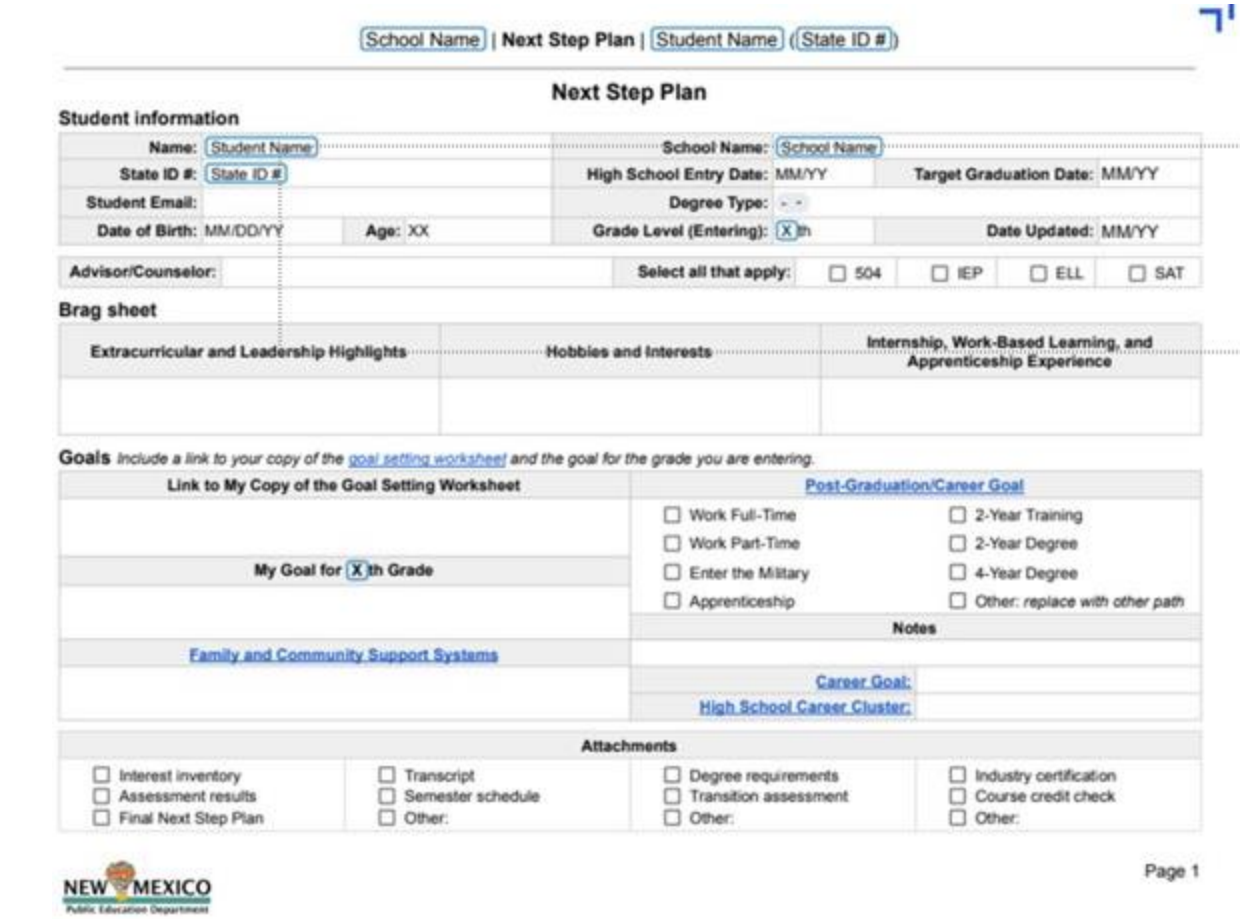
Curriculum
Customized Scope & Sequence



Dashboard
Track Student Progress



PED and Level All Next Step Plan



School Name | Next Step Plan | Student Name (State ID #)

Next Step Plan

Student information

Name:	Student Name	School Name:	School Name		
State ID #:	State ID #	High School Entry Date:	MM/YY	Target Graduation Date:	MM/YY
Student Email:		Degree Type:	- -		
Date of Birth:	MM/DD/YY	Age: XX	Grade Level (Entering):	X th	Date Updated: MM/YY
Advisor/Counselor:		Select all that apply:	☐ 504	☐ IEP	☐ ELL ☐ SAT

Brag sheet

Extracurricular and Leadership Highlights	Hobbies and Interests	Internship, Work-Based Learning, and Apprenticeship Experience

Goals

Include a link to your copy of the goal setting worksheet and the goal for the grade you are entering.

Link to My Copy of the Goal Setting Worksheet	Post-Graduation/Career Goal	
	☐ Work Full-Time	☐ 2-Year Training
	☐ Work Part-Time	☐ 2-Year Degree
My Goal for X th Grade	☐ Enter the Military	☐ 4-Year Degree
	☐ Apprenticeship	☐ Other: *replace with other path*
	Notes	
Family and Community Support Systems		
	Career Goal:	
	High School Career Cluster:	

Attachments			
☐ Interest inventory	☐ Transcript	☐ Degree requirements	☐ Industry certification
☐ Assessment results	☐ Semester schedule	☐ Transition assessment	☐ Course credit check
☐ Final Next Step Plan	☐ Other:	☐ Other:	☐ Other:

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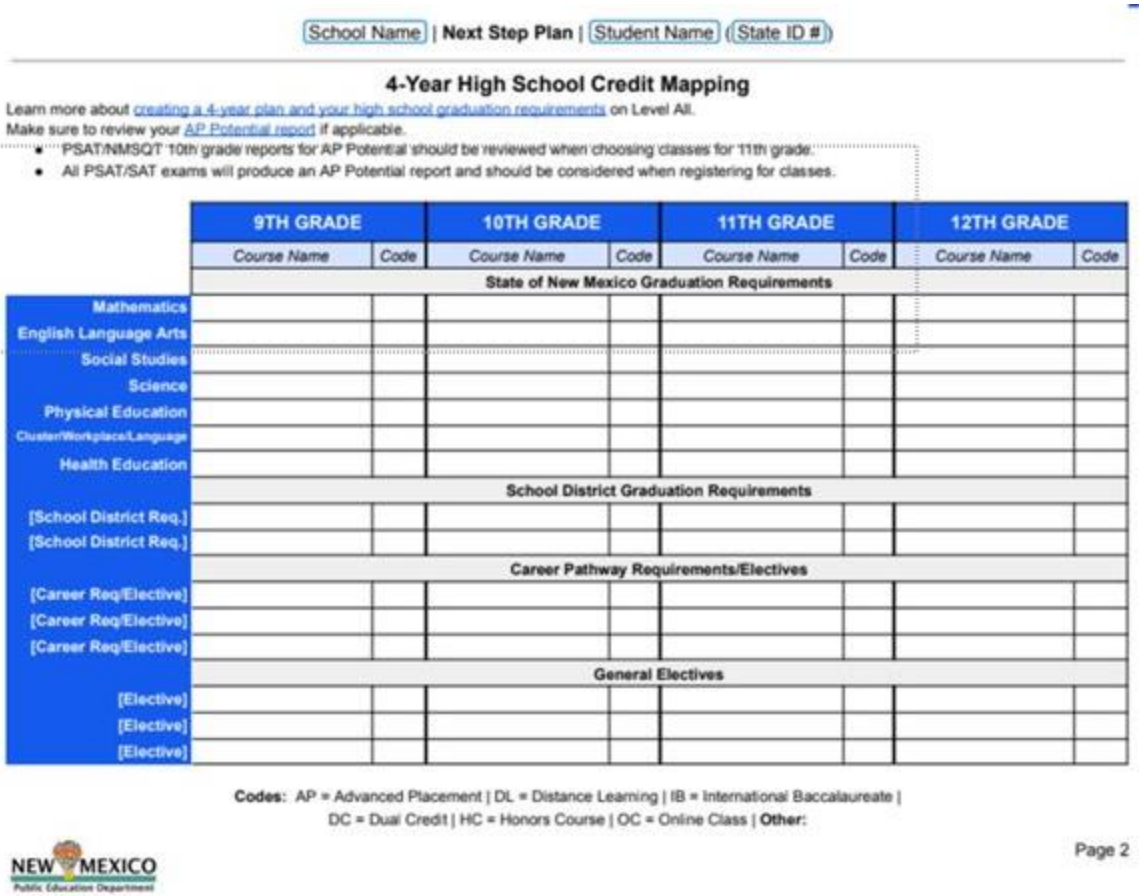
Page 1



School Name | Next Step Plan | Student Name (State ID #)

4-Year High School Credit Mapping

Learn more about creating a 4-year plan and your high school graduation requirements on Level All.
Make sure to review your AP Potential report if applicable.

- PSAT/NMSQT 10th grade reports for AP Potential should be reviewed when choosing classes for 11th grade.
- All PSAT/SAT exams will produce an AP Potential report and should be considered when registering for classes.

	9TH GRADE		10TH GRADE		11TH GRADE		12TH GRADE	
	Course Name	*Code*	*Course Name*	*Code*	*Course Name*	*Code*	*Course Name*	*Code*
	State of New Mexico Graduation Requirements							
Mathematics								
English Language Arts								
Social Studies								
Science								
Physical Education								
Cluster/Workplace/Language								
Health Education								
	School District Graduation Requirements							
[School District Req.]								
[School District Req.]								
	Career Pathway Requirements/Electives							
[Career Req/Elective]								
[Career Req/Elective]								
[Career Req/Elective]								
	General Electives							
[Elective]								
[Elective]								
[Elective]								

Codes: AP = Advanced Placement | DL = Distance Learning | IB = International Baccalaureate | DC = Dual Credit | HC = Honors Course | OC = Online Class | **Other:**

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Page 2

New NSP Tool: Coming October 2025

Fillable form innate to LevelAll platform

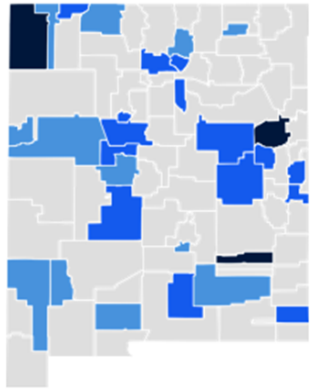
- No more Google Drive templates!
- Once complete with their NSP, students can request educators and guardians to review, approve, and e-sign the document
- Live tracking of completed sections
- View multiple students' progress at once.

Platform Engagement Data

Level All

New Mexico PED | Engagement Report

Data Captured as of: April 17, 2024



- Districts/Charters Pending Launch (24/25 SY): 4
- Districts/Charters Pending Launch (25/26 SY): 18
- Districts/Charters Launched: 19
  - Number of Student Accounts: 31,086
  - Number of Parent/Guardian Accounts: 6,417
  - Number of Educator Accounts: 2,384

General Platform Engagement:

Average Number of Sessions per User: **2.66 sessions**

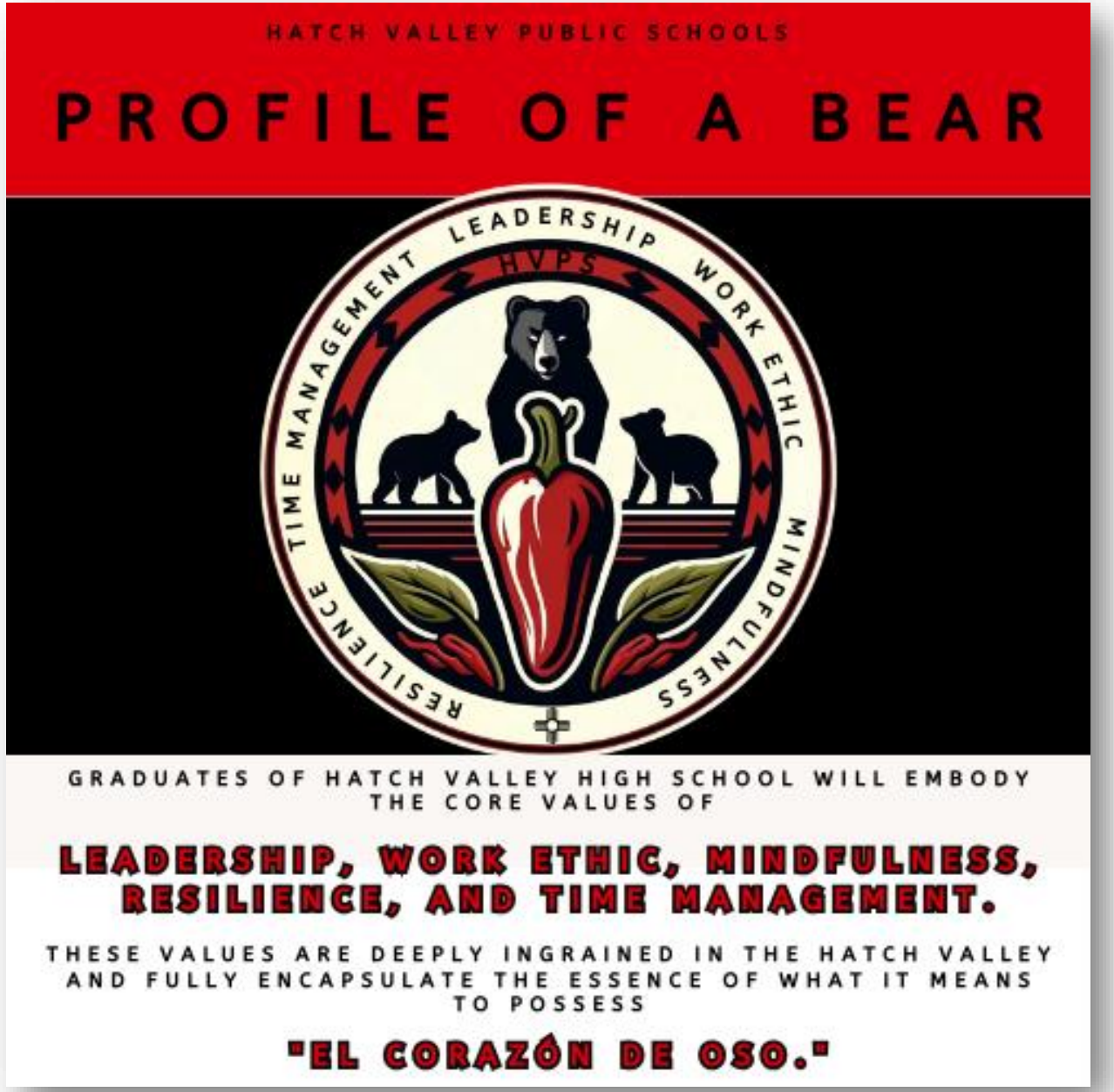
Average Session Duration per User: **11.75 minutes**

The average New Mexico student spends approximately **31 minutes** exploring content in Level All **each month**. We expect this to fluctuate as the academic year goes on and students wrap up their NSPs.

What is a Graduate Profile?

- A Graduate Profile (sometimes referred to as Profile of a Graduate or Portrait of a Graduate) is a visualization of what a community believes their high school graduates need to know and demonstrate before they leave school.
- An LEA co-creates their graduate profile with input from key community partners, and uses the document to communicate the attitudes, skills and knowledge that are needed and valued for success in college, career and life.
- House Bill 171 requires all school districts and charter schools to create a unique graduate profile that articulates the core academic competencies and subjects that are key to graduates' post-high school success, and to which required units are aligned.
- Students’ Next-Step Plans must be aligned with the district or charter school’s graduate profile.

Graduate Profiles



Status of Graduate Profiles

- Advance CTE was awarded a multi-year contract to partner with CCRB in establishing a framework and guidelines, creating a written toolkit, providing technical assistance, and publishing all completed Graduate Profiles.
- As of June 2025
  - A draft of the Framework is complete. It includes an Introduction, minimum required elements, technical specifications, expectations for engaging partners, and guidance for implementing the profile after it is created.
  - A landscape survey shows that we have copies of Graduate Profiles from 43 districts or charter schools; however, they have not yet been evaluated for their alignment with the new framework. 134 do not have (or have not submitted) a Graduate Profile.
  - Focus groups were held on June 16 and 17 to solicit feedback about the elements needed in a toolkit.

Thank you!

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Appendix

Cohort 2024 Graduation Rates Highlights

Top 10 LEAs with Highest Graduation Rates for Cohort 2024, Class of 20 or More		
School	**District**	**2024 4Y Graduation Rate**
Alta Vista Early College High	Gadsden	100.00% graduation rate
Early College Academy	Albuquerque	99.75% graduation rate
San Juan College High	Farmington	99.58% graduation rate
Academy for Technology and Classics	Santa Fe	97.44% graduation rate
Cloudcroft High	Cloudcroft	97.22% graduation rate
Mandela International Magnet	Santa Fe	97.17% graduation rate
Early College High	Las Cruces	96.62% graduation rate
NM School for the Arts	State Charter	96.56% graduation rate
Early College High	Roswell	96.52% graduation rate
College and Career High School	Albuquerque	96.26% graduation rate
Cottonwood Classical Prep	State Charter	95.66% graduation rate

Top 10 LEAs with Highest Graduation Growth for Cohort 2024, Class of 300 or More		
School	**District**	**2024 4Y Graduation Growth**
La Cueva High	Albuquerque	11.45% points improvement
Highland High	Albuquerque	10.84% points improvement
New Mexico Connections Academy	State Charter	9.14% points improvement
Valley High	Albuquerque	8.00% points improvement
Volcano Vista High	Albuquerque	6.93% points improvement
Eldorado High	Albuquerque	6.70% points improvement
Sandia High	Albuquerque	6.69% points improvement
Organ Mountain High	Las Cruces	5.72% points improvement
Rio Grande High	Albuquerque	5.65% points improvement
Albuquerque High	Albuquerque	5.06% points improvement

Top 10 LEAs with Highest Graduation Rates for Cohort 2024, Class of 300 or More		
School	**District**	**2024 4Y Graduation Rate**
Los Alamos High	Los Alamos	94.45% graduation rate
Lovington High	Lovington	92.68% graduation rate
La Cueva High	Albuquerque	91.25% graduation rate
Volcano Vista High	Albuquerque	89.23% graduation rate
Gadsden High	Gadsden	88.99% graduation rate
Santa Teresa High	Gadsden	88.98% graduation rate
Cleveland High	Rio Rancho	87.17% graduation rate
Farmington High	Farmington	86.19% graduation rate
Rio Rancho High	Rio Rancho	86.10% graduation rate
Hobbs High	Hobbs	85.94% graduation rate

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS BEGINNING WITH COHORT 2029

24 units

COURSE WORK

ENGLISH
4 UNITS

ELA 1
ELA 2
ELA 3
4th English
ELD Courses satisfy requirement. CTE or WBL can meet this requirement

MATH
4 UNITS

Algebra 1
Geometry
3rd Math
4th Math
CTE or WBL can meet this requirement

SCIENCE
3 UNITS

Lab Science
Lab Science
Science
CTE or WBL can meet this requirement

SOCIAL STUDIES
4 UNITS

US History w/ NM History
World History
Government/Economics
4th Social Studies
NM History can be offered as a stand alone course

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
1 UNIT

HEALTH
0.5 UNIT

ELECTIVES
5.5 UNITS
Must include a 2-unit pathway concentration of the student's choice

LOCAL REQUIREMENT
2 UNITS
Two units set by each local school board or governing body that meet department academic content and performance standards

Algebra 2, Financial Literacy, and Computer Science shall be offered.

A student shall still have the opportunity to take Dual Credit, Honors, AP, and IB courses.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CREDIT

Through HB171, the following credits earned prior to enrolling in high school will meet the graduation requirements:

Algebra 1, Geometry, and Health

COURSE WAIVERS

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 webpage and submitted to: Waivers.PED@ped.nm.gov**

CTE/WBL CORE CREDIT

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn credit in the following courses with a passing grade of C or better:

English: English 1, English 2, and English 3; Math: Algebra 1 and Geometry or Integrated Math 1 and Integrated Math 2; Science: Two lab sciences . The CTE/WBL teacher of record must hold the proper licenses in the core content areas.

3 Paths

1. Core Content Standards Crosswalk
2. Mastery Scores
   a. English and Math
      i. PSAT 10 & PSAT/NMSQT (Reading/Writing 430+, Math 480+)
      ii. SAT School Day (Reading/Writing 480+, Math 530+)
      iii. Work Keys (Career Readiness Certificate - Silver NCRC Level)
   b. Science
      i. Assessment of Science Readiness (ASR) (1160+)
3. CTE WBL Capstone Completer Course

Refer to the CTE/WBL Core Credit Guidance Manual for instructions on submitting documentation.

COHORT 2029 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

PATHWAYS

Standard Diploma Pathway

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.

Ability Diploma Pathway

Specifically designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities by the student's IEP team. Students on the ability pathway take an alternative assessment in at least one subject. Guidance on the qualifiers eligibility for the ability pathway are detailed in the August 4, 2023, Memorandum regarding identification of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

NEXT STEP PLAN

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.

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: newmexico@levelall.com

GRAD PROFILE

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 units.

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, bbartlett@careertech.org

DOC

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 11 and grades 9-12 if identified as an English learner who has not met the state's exit criteria.

Email: Grad.Questions@ped.nm.gov for graduation questions.

Presentations

Date	Venue	Audience	Length
January 13, 2025	CTE Leadership Workshop	CTE Leaders, Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, Counselors	45 minutes x2
February 3, 2025	Graduation Requirements Office Hours	Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, Counselors	1 hour
February 5, 2025	NM School Counselors Spring PLC	Counselors	1 hour
February 6, 2025	Graduation Requirements Office Hours	Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, Counselors	1 hour
February 10, 2025	Graduation Requirements Recording	All	1 hour
February 10, 2025	Graduation Requirements Office Hours	Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, Counselors	1 hour
February 12, 2025	CTE Statewide Advisory Board	Business, Industry, Community members	30 minutes
February 19, 2025	Attendance Improvement ECHO	Superintendents, Principals, Attendance Clerks, Counselors	30 minutes
March 12, 2025	Learn New Mexico	Principals, Business, Industry, Community	30 minutes
April 11, 2025	Spring Budget Workshop	Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers	1 hour
April 17, 2025 May 15, 2025	Education Leaders Call	Superintendents and Charter School Leaders	15 minutes x2
May 15, 2025	Charter School Leaders Call	Charter School Directors, Teachers	1 hour
May 20, 2025	Office of Special Education Office Hours	Special Education Directors, Teachers	1 hour
May 21, 2025	Indian Education Call	Tribal Partners, LEAs, and other grantees	30 Minutes x2
June 4, 2025	Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)	DVR employees	1 hour