

January 2014

Dear Parents and Seniors,

All seniors will be meeting with their school counselor in January to make sure they are on track to graduate. It is very important that students attend this meeting and review what is required of them to earn a high school diploma, especially since some graduation requirements may seem confusing.

The Class of 2014 is expected to **earn 25 credits** and also to **demonstrate competency in five areas: reading, math, writing, science and social studies**. Most students can demonstrate competency by passing a state standardized test in each area. Students who fail one or more of these tests now have the option of submitting a portfolio of work. Recently added exemptions and other alternatives also are available.

Below is an overview of the graduation requirements for the Class of 2014. Understandably, students and parents may be overwhelmed by this information. That is why it is so important for students to meet with their counselor to review transcripts and talk about requirements and options.

Credits

The Class of 2014 must earn 25 credits* in the following areas:

English	4 credits
Math	4 credits of which one is Algebra II or higher
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	World History 1 credit U.S. History 1 credit Government ½ credit Economics ½ credit NM History ½ credit
Health	½ credit
PE	1 credit
Electives	8 credits
Career/workplace readiness or Arts or Foreign Language	1 credit

**At least one credit earned is an Honors, Advanced Placement, Dual Credit or Online class.*

Tests

The Class of 2014 is expected to pass state-required standardized tests in five subject areas: reading, math, science, social studies and writing.

- Students take the SBA for reading, math and science.
- Students take End of Course exams for writing (through their English classes) and social studies (through their history, economics or government classes).

Alternative Demonstration of Competency

There are several ways for students to demonstrate competency other than by passing the SBA or End of Course exams. These include minimum scores on such tests as the PLAN, ACT, PSAT, SAT, AP exams and others.

Students who failed the SBA and/or End of Course exams may submit a portfolio of student work to their counselor that includes items on a comprehensive list created by the Albuquerque Public Schools. The school counselor will share these options with students if needed.

Again, all of this information will be clarified and personalized for students when they meet with their counselor. If you have not heard from your counselor within the first three weeks of the second semester, contact the counseling office to make an appointment.