



SUPPORT FOR TRANSFERRING STUDENTS

Improving Supports for Students in New Mexico

WHAT IS THE SUPPORT FOR TRANSERRING STUDENT LAW?

The Support for Transferring Students Law (NMSA 22-12A-14) took effect in New Mexico in 2017 and was expanded in 2020. The law was created because students who experience the child welfare system, juvenile justice system, and/or homelessness are often forced to change schools for reasons beyond their control. When students move schools, they typically lose credit for work they did in previous school districts, and each district has unique graduation requirements. As a result, students are not able to graduate on time, and many give up and leave school.

HOW DOES THE LAW WORK?

Schools and districts are required to provide:

- Student records to the new school within two days of transfer
- Priority placement in classes that meet state graduation requirements
- Timely placement in elective classes comparable to those in the previous school
- Equal access to extracurricular activities
- Timely advice from counselors
- A diploma if the student meets state graduation requirements, even if the district has different requirements
- **NEW IN 2020:** Credit for any work completed prior to the transfer, regardless of whether the transfer occurred at the end of a grading period. The Public Education Department determined that credit for partially-completed courses will be awarded based on the percentage of the course for which the student was enrolled.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Students who change schools during a school year as the result of homelessness; adjudication as an abused or neglected child, as part of a family in need of court-ordered services, or as a delinquent; or placed in a mental health treatment facility for developmental disabilities or treatment foster care.

LEARN MORE by contacting:

Arika E. Sánchez
Director of Policy and Advocacy
NMCAN
505-217-0220
arika.sanchez@nmcan.org
nmcan.org