

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Our History

Pecos Connections Academy (PCA) is a tuition-free accredited, virtual public school currently serving students in grades K-9. The school will add one grade per year, ultimately serving students in grades K-12. Pecos Connections Academy was founded during the 2017–2018 school year as a K-8 school. The school's first 12th grade class will graduate in May, 2021. Our students come from all across New Mexico, creating a unique and diverse student population.

Our Mission

The mission of Pecos Connections Academy (PCA) is to create a personalized, student-centered approach to learning. This approach unites online learning with New Mexico-certified teachers, resulting in scholastic and personal success for students statewide.

OUR PROGRAM

Pecos Connections Academy (PCA) will include a four-year comprehensive high school program with a projected enrollment of 2000 students in grades K-12. Here are some important facts about our program:

- Connections Academy is a division of Connections Education which is accredited by AdvancEd.
- PCA currently employs 14 core and Special Education teachers, two full-time school counselors, and two administrators to help meet individual student needs.
- School is in session 180 days between the months of August and May.
- Students on the traditional pacing are able to earn up to 6 credits during the school year. The typical course load is six classes per semester.
- One semester class equals one-half of a high school credit.
- Students who have taken high school level courses while in middle school may be granted high school credit.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:

Principal: Jed Duggan

Manager of Special Education: Brenda Smith

Manager of Counseling: Lorissa Marshall

High School Counselor: Karen Kaufman

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

25 Carnegie units of credit are required for graduation. Specific requirements include:

Area/Subjects	# Units for Graduation
English	4
Math*	3
Science (inc. 2 with lab)	3
Social Science	3.5
New Mexico History	0.5
Physical Education	1
Career Cluster**	5
Health Education	0.5
Electives	8
Total	25

*One unit equal to or greater than Algebra 2

**Or language other than English

Additional courses are from those listed approved for credit toward graduation by the school including approved vocational education courses

HIGH SCHOOL VIRTUAL VISITATION

College representatives are invited to connect with our students through web conferencing technology. Two weeks' notice is greatly appreciated so that we have time to notify students. For more information about setting up a web conference session, please contact Karen Kaufman, Counselor at kkaufman@pca.connectionsacademy.org

COURSE OFFERINGS

Pecos Connections Academy offers a diverse and comprehensive curriculum with courses in a wide range of disciplines. The core curriculum is geared toward preparing students for college and beyond. All science courses include hands-on laboratory units. Students have access to AP, Honors, College Preparatory, and Foundation programs. Students will also have the opportunity to earn dual high school and college credit by attending postsecondary institutions.

Honors course offerings include: English 9-11, Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, Earth Science, Physical Science, American Government, US History and World History.

GRADING SCALE

Student transcripts reflect weighted grades if the student took Honors or Advanced Placement courses. The numerical grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Numerical Percentage	Non-Weighted	Weighted (Honors)	Weighted (AP)
A+	98–100	4.00	4.50	5.00
A	92–97	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90–91	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	88–89	3.33	3.83	4.33
B	82–87	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80–81	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	78–79	2.33	2.83	3.33
C	72–77	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70–71	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+	68–69	1.33	1.83	2.33
D	62–67	1.00	1.50	2.00
D-	60–61	0.67	1.17	1.67
F	0–59	0.00	0.00	0.00

Class rank is calculated twice each year, at the conclusion of each semester. Class rank is based upon the student's cumulative weighted GPA for all high school courses, including transfer courses.

Transcript Abbreviations

- CO** Course completed
- EN** Scheduled in section
- IP** Active in section
- PC** Student has completed course and teacher is finishing grading
- WF** Failing grade at time of withdrawal from course
- WP** Passing grade at time of withdrawal from course

TESTING

Pecos Connections Academy adheres to all state testing requirements and additionally encourages students to take the appropriate college entrance and preparatory exams necessary for reaching their personal and academic goals.

Required State Testing:

- Access for ELLs
- EOC – End of Course Exams
- NMAPA – New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment
- OTL, Quality of Education – Surveys for Parents and Students
- Post-Secondary (ACT, SAT, PSAT, SAT, Accuplacer, Compass, Advanced Placement, WorkKeys)
- PARCC – Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (grades 3-high school)
- SBA – Standards Based Assessment (grades 4, 7, and 11)