

## **i ABOUT OUR SCHOOL**

### **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 HISTORY**

Pecos Connections Academy (PCA) is a tuition-free accredited, virtual public school currently serving students in grades K-10. Pecos Connections Academy 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 across New Mexico, creating a unique and diverse student population.

### **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:

- Pecos Connections Academy is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), an accrediting division by AdvancED.
- PCA currently employs 33.25 core and Special Education teachers, two full-time school counselors, and three 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 can earn up to seven credits during the school year. The typical course load is seven classes per semester.
- The school operates on a semester system utilizing Carnegie units.
- 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.

### **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 [kkaufman@pca.connectionsacademy.org](mailto:kkaufman@pca.connectionsacademy.org).



## **ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS**

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 can earn dual high school and college credit by attending postsecondary institutions.

**AP course offerings include:** AP Biology A&B, AP Calculus A&B, AP English Language and Composition A&B

**Honors course offerings include:** Honors English - Grades: 9-11 A/B, Honors Math III, Honors Pre-Calculus, Honors Biology A/B, Honors Earth/Environmental Science, Honors Chemistry, Honors Physical Science, and Honors World History A/B.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

<https://www.connectionsacademy.com/pecos-virtual-school>

1503 West Pierce Street, Carlsbad  
NM 88220

**Fax:** 575-200-1034

**Phone:** 575-236-4005

## **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION PRINCIPAL:**

### **VICE PRINCIPAL:**

FREDA DAUGHERTY

### **MANAGER OF SPECIAL**

**EDUCATION:** BRENDA SMITH

### **MANAGER OF COUNSELING:**

LORISSA MARSHALL

### **HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR:**

KAREN KAUFMAN

## **ACCREDITATIONS**





## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Area/Subjects	#Units for Graduation
English	4
Math (one unit= or> than Algebra 2)	4
Science (2 w/lab)	3
Social Science	3.5
New Mexico History	.5
Physical Education	1
Career Cluster or Language other than	1
Health Education	.5
Other Electives	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>



## 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:

Assessment	Grades
Istation Indicators of Student Progress (ISIP)	K-2
Math and ELA Assessment –New Mexico’s Measures of Student Success and Achievement (NM-MSSA)	3-8
College Entrance Exam (Math and ELA)	11
New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NMASR)	5, 8, 11
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)	3-8, 11
ACCESS for ELLS Alt-ACCESS	ACCESS: K-12 Alt-ACCESS: 1-12
End of Course Exams	HS (Not required but may be used for graduation assessment)


**GRADE SCALE**

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

Grade	Grade %	Passing?	Non-Weighted	Weighted (Honors)	Weighted (AP)
A+	98 – 100	Yes	4.0	4.5	5.0
A	92-97	Yes	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	90-91	Yes	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	88-89	Yes	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	82-87	Yes	3.0	3.5	4.0
B-	80-81	Yes	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	78-79	Yes	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	72-77	Yes	2.0	2.5	3.0
C-	70-71	Yes	1.7	2.2	2.7
D+	68-69	Yes	1.3	1.8	2.3
D	62-67	Yes	1.0	1.5	2.0
D-	60-61	Yes	0.7	1.2	1.7
F	0-59	No	0.0	0.00	0.0

*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.*