



NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

Alisha Tafoya Lucero, Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Corrections Department surpasses adult education goal for fourth consecutive year

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Corrections Department continues to lead the state in adult education completions, surpassing the Legislative Finance Committee's High School Equivalency performance target, for the fourth consecutive fiscal year.

During Fiscal Year 2026, 272 incarcerated individuals—which was 76% of all eligible students within the state prison system—earned their High School Equivalency credentials, marking the highest number of completions in department history.

“We are incredibly proud of our students, educators, and facility staff for helping our department reach this milestone,” said **Corrections Cabinet Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero**. “Most of our inmates will one day return to their communities and many of them entered prison without a high school education, which can be a barrier in securing employment. By making education a priority within our correctional facilities, we are giving students the foundation they need to build productive post-release lives.”

The daily classes are taught by 26 Reentry Division educators and 95 peer education tutors in all state prisons, as well as the privately owned Otero County Prison Facility. The education programs are offered in partnership with the New Mexico Higher Education Department.

“Education has the power to transform lives, and we believe every New Mexican deserves the opportunity to build a brighter future—no matter where their journey begins,” said **Higher Education Secretary Stephanie M. Rodriguez**. “Through our partnership with the New Mexico Corrections Department, students are earning high school equivalency credentials and gaining the skills they need for a successful future. This year's record-breaking results show that when we invest in second chances through education, we create stronger families, safer communities and a stronger New Mexico.”

The Reentry Division also offers opportunities for students to pursue post-secondary degrees and career technical certifications, preparing them for in-demand careers upon release.

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The New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) is one of the largest state departments in New Mexico. The department staff and volunteers are fully committed to integrating programs in its facilities for rehabilitation. It is through programs and services the department aims to improve outcomes for offenders and enhance public safety in communities. For more information, visit cd.nm.gov or follow NMCD on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) at @NMCDPIO.