

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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To: All AEFLA-funded Adult Education Programs
From: New Mexico Higher Education Department, Adult Education Division
Re: Local Program Guidance: Spanish HSE-track courses

NMHED-AE Guidance on “Spanish HSE-track” Courses

Context:

AEFLA-funded Adult Education programs exist to help eligible adults strengthen core academic skills-- including English Language Acquisition, or ELA-- to support secondary credential attainment; transition to postsecondary education and training; workplace skill development and career pathway entry and advancement; family literacy; and civic engagement. Per statutory requirement, AEFLA-funded programs must assess and document Measurable Skill Gains (MSGs) for all Adult Education program participants using an NRS-approved assessment.

New Mexico is a bilingual state, and residents have the option of taking an HSE test in Spanish. However, given the purpose and goals of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, there is no NRS-approved Spanish language skills assessment. While a student enrolled in a New Mexico AEFLA-funded Adult Education program may certainly choose to prepare to take an HSE test in Spanish, and while AEFLA-funded programs in New Mexico may certainly offer some instruction for this test in Spanish, *students must simultaneously participate in formal ELA instruction, and programs must monitor student progress and document skill development using an NRS-approved assessment.*

NMHED-AE Guidance:

- ❖ AEFLA-funded Adult Education programs *may not* offer a “Spanish-only HSE track” course for the *sole* purpose of preparing participants to take a Spanish-language HSE test, without an accompanying ELA course component.
- ❖ Similarly, AEFLA-funded programs *may not* offer a stand-alone civics course (in Spanish, English, or any other language) without a structured ELA course component.