



POLICY: Program Offerings, Program Selection & Program Changes

Approved by Governing Council On: 2/1/23

As a leader in student-centered innovation, rather than designing programming around the needs of the school, Siembra offers programming based on the needs of students and families. All programming offerings are in alignment with state graduation requirements dictated by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). Siembra, just as any other high school in New Mexico, abides by the same credit requirements. Credits are offered based on common core statewide standards that may be accessed on the NMPED website. All credits earned at Siembra are transferable to any other high school in New Mexico. All credits of students transferring into Siembra are honored. All program offerings are individualized based on student need.

Program Offerings. Siembra will staff and offer the programs listed below to students and families based on student needs. Students and families will select from the program options below upon registration.

- **In-person Project-based Learning (PBL).**

In-person project-based learning is the full-time default program that most students are enrolled in. Through this programming, young people are enrolled in a full day of projects and capstone earning multiple half credits based on student grade level and student need. This program may be offered in scaled-back version on a case by case basis to honor students' extenuating circumstances.

- **Virtual Project-based Learning (PBL).**

Virtual project-based learning is the full-time program option designed to serve those students that prefer to learn in a setting of their choice, rather than the school facility. Virtual projects are separate and have separate teachers from the in-person program; this is a true stand alone virtual program. Through this programming, young people are enrolled in a full day of projects and capstone earning multiple half credits based on student grade level and student need. This program may be offered in scaled-back version on a case by case basis to honor students' extenuating circumstances.

- **Evening Project-based Learning (PBL).**

Evening project-based learning program option is typically accessed by older students, and/or students returning to school, and/or students recovering credits. Evening PBL is ideal for those students who are 1) working in the day, 2) have other obligations during the day, and 3) learn best or are most available during the evening hours.

- **Asynchronous Re-engagement.**

Asynchronous re-engagement programming is optimal for those students who are returning to school, are on the cusp of exiting school and/or are navigating extenuating life circumstances. Asynchronous re-engagement programming is designed as a step towards transitioning into one of the above PBL programs (in-person, virtual or evening). Asynchronous re-engagement can include Acellus programming. Acellus is a program in which young people and their families complete self-paced credit recovery online. Students are provided laptops, hotspots if needed





and Acellus programming free of charge. In addition to Acellus, Asynchronous re-engagement can also include engagement credits that count as elective credits honoring the learning that is taking place in a young person's life. Asynchronous re-engagement programming is highly individualized and the most tailored to students needs out of the four program offerings.

Supplemental Credits & Programming. In addition to being enrolled in any of the four program offerings stated above, students may also earn the following supplemental credits.

- **Dual Enrollment.** All Siembra students may enroll in college courses while in high school free of charge. Students are supported with enrollment and application. College courses count as both college and high school credit.
- **Work-based Learning.** Work-based learning credit includes community-based entrepreneurial internships and paid employment. Young people earn high school credit that is also aligned with Siembra's entrepreneurial framework and learning outcomes.
- **Engagement Credits.** Engagement credits honors the lived experience of young people while capturing the learning and development taking place. These experiences may include but are not limited to: experiencing homelessness or precarious housing, experiencing parenthood or caregiving, experiencing grief and loss, navigating the foster care system or juvenile justice system, engaging in mental health services or case management and experiencing situational crisis.

Program Selection. Families and students select their program based on need upon enrollment. Throughout the school year during family meetings assessing for program alignment takes place.

Program Changes.

- At the mid-semester point, students earning half or less of their scheduled credits will have their schedules assessed and altered/scaled back to best fit student need and situation.
- Students may be changed to virtual or re-engagement programming if there are physical safety concerns that are deemed detrimental to overall school culture.
- Students and families may change their program within the first six weeks of the semester and will remain in the changed program throughout the duration of the semester unless there are extenuating circumstances requiring additional program changes.

Program Oversight and Management. Program management and oversight is aligned with Siembra's innovative three pillar model of community engagement, student support and project-based learning. Siembra on-site school leaders (Pillar Directors) lead programming and credits as outlined below.

- **Project-based Learning Programming & Credits.**

PBL credits and programming are overseen by the Learning by Doing Pillar under the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

- **Transition Programming & Credits.**





All CTE, dual enrollment, work-based learning, internships, schoolwide entrepreneurial framework and schoolwide entrepreneurial learning outcomes and certifications are overseen by the Community Engagement Pillar under the Director of Community Engagement.

- **Social-emotional Learning (SEL) & Engagement Programming & Credits.**

Schoolwide SEL framework, Success project and engagement credits are overseen by the Student Support Pillar under the Director of Student Support.

Supplemental Related Materials:

- Siembra's Entrepreneurial Certification
- Siembra's Community-based Entrepreneurial Learning Framework
- Siembra's Entrepreneurial Framework
- Siembra's Entrepreneurial Learning Outcomes
- Siembra's Engagement and Life Skills Credit(s) Framework and Learning Outcomes

