

# New America charter school celebrates graduation with in-person ceremony



LAS CRUCES – Thursday, 33 students received their diplomas from the New America charter high school during a ceremony at Plaza de Las Cruces.

This was the school's first time holding a graduation ceremony at the plaza, according to Superintendent Margarita Leza Porter, who presented the diplomas to students.

The New America School is a charter school focused on providing education to new immigrants, English language learners and academically underserved populations. About 200 students in grades ninth through 12th are enrolled.

**Graduation:** [At last: Las Cruces Class of 2020 walks across the stage at graduation](#)

The charter high school [elected to remain fully online for the 2020-21 school year](#). Leza Porter had said that when the school reached out to students, few showed interest in returning to in-person classes.

This marks 16 months since March 2020, when school buildings statewide were closed to mitigate the spread of the SARS CoV-2 coronavirus, which causes the COVID-19 disease.

The charter school decided to hold off on a graduation ceremony until [July 1, which is the day that New Mexico essentially reopened](#), retiring restrictions on mass gatherings.

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