



AMSD CURRICULUM ADOPTION FOR:

PROGRAM OF STUDY: PUBLIC SAFETY
PATHWAY NAME: CORRECTION SERVICES

JUSTIFICATION:

The new Modernized National Career Clusters Framework has been adopted by the state of New Mexico. This new model that was released in October of 2024 will be available for the 2025-26 academic year. This means that schools went from 16 different pathways to giving students an opportunity to be trained in nearly 100 career clusters! Obviously, our school district is not big enough to provide all of those offerings, but we do have some opportunities to be funded in this new model.

Using the high wage, high growth, high skill, and high demand career criteria; the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department would like to propose adding Public Safety (Criminal Justice) to our pathway and course offerings. Students will have the opportunity to pursue training in law enforcement.

A survey was conducted during the last week of school. We had a great student response to this survey, especially considering how late in the year it was conducted and how busy people were when the survey was sent. Of the respondents interested, 35 incoming freshmen were interested in pursuing the public safety pathway and 34 students were interested from grades 10-12 of the 2025-26 school year.

Below is a table showing the course sequences that could serve Aztec Municipal School District students from grades 8-12. Following the table are the course descriptions set forth by the New Mexico Public Education Department.

COURSE SEQUENCE:

PATHWAY	MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORATION	LEVEL I	LEVEL II	LEVEL III	LEVEL IV
Correction Services	1603 Career Exploration	2501 Exploration of Public Service or 2503 Community Protection	1718 Forensic Science or 2513 Criminal Justice Assistings	2761 Law Studies	2596 Public Protective Social Services-Independent or 2598 Public Protective Social Services-Coop or 2599 Public Protective Social Services-Other

NMPED LONG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

1603 Career Exploration: Career Exploration - Recommended for Students Grades 6 - 8 - Course helps students identify and evaluate personal goals, priorities, aptitudes, and interests in the pursuit of effective career decision-making. Career Exploration courses expose students to various sources of information on career and training options, and may also enable students to understand the implications of technological and economic changes on the labor market. These courses may also include the development of job search and employability skills.

1718 Forensic Science: Forensic Science - Student Grades 10 - 12 - (Prerequisite: Biology or Chemistry or Concurrently enrolled in Integrated Science III) This phenomena based course focuses on applicable grade-level multidimensionality in the NM STEM Ready! Science Standards addressing topics of: forensic science, discussing the foundation of forensic science in basic science and mathematics, and introducing the technique of integrating these areas in the determination of the cause of death. The philosophical, rational and practical framework that supports a forensic investigation will be presented via an integrated curriculum. Students will study forensic anthropology, biochemistry, chemistry, botany, entomology and physics as well as problem-solving techniques utilized in analyzing a crime scene. Other topics include ballistics, autopsies, mass disasters, epidemiology of environmental disasters, biological weapons as well as toxicology, microbiology, and pathology, and engineering design.

2501 Exploration of Public Service: Exploration of Public Service Careers - Course exposes students to the duties, responsibilities, requirements, and career opportunities within public service. Course topics vary and may include (but are not limited to) the following: education; protective services; correction, judicial, and probation services; fire protection and firefighting; public administration; and social work. Course activities depend upon the career clusters explored.

2503 Community Protection: Community Protection - Course provides students with information regarding the personnel and agencies concerned with protection of the home, city, state, and nation. Topics may include civil defense and disaster preparedness; crime prevention; pollution control; fire prevention and control; legal and social systems and principles; and public health. These topics may be explored as a community resident and citizen using these services, or as one interested in pursuing a career in public service.

2513 Criminal Justice Assistings: Criminal Justice Assisting - Course trains students to understand and apply the principles and procedures essential to the U.S. criminal justice system. The principles and structure of the justice system and the law are explored; course content also typically includes traffic control, investigation, search and arrest, laboratory, forensic, and trial procedures. Students may also learn CPR and first aid skills, personal defense tactics, and crime prevention techniques.

2596 Public Protective Social Services-Independent: Public, Protective, and Social Services-Independent Study - Course, often conducted with instructors as mentors, enables students to explore topics of interest related to their program in greater depth and detail. Independent Study courses may serve as an opportunity to expand expertise in a particular application or to explore a topic of special interest within a closely related field.

2598 Public Protective Social Services-Coop: Public, Protective, and Social Services-Co-Op - Course provides work experience in the public service sector, and is supported by classroom attendance and discussion. Goals are set for the employment period; classroom experience may involve further study in the field, improvement of employability skills, or discussion regarding the experiences and problems encountered on the job.

2599 Public Protective Social Services-Other: Public, Protective, and Social Services - Other. Typically used with advanced dual credit topics.