



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

RACHELLE TOME
ACTING COMMISSIONER

December 22, 2014

Jeffery D. Merrill II
Superintendent
Arthur R. Gould School
675 Westbrook St.
South Portland, ME 04106

Dear Superintendent Merrill:

This letter acknowledges receipt of AR Gould School's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements. The information and evidence presented in AR Gould's request for Extension Option 6 gives the Department reasonable confidence that the benchmarks established for the 2014 -2015 school year will be met and will inform the development of benchmarks for the 2015-2016 school year. Meeting these benchmarks will support AR Gould School's progress toward the awarding of a proficiency-based diploma based on secondary school standards after July 1, 2020. There are no penalties if you discover your school is prepared sooner to award a proficiency-based diploma representing readiness for career and college experience without the need for remediation in all content areas.

Under a provision in Maine's Basic School Approval Statutes (Maine Revised Statutes 20-A §4502, subsection 8), I grant a waiver of the requirement to award proficiency-based diplomas after January 1, 2018 and extend the time to transition to proficiency-based graduation requirements to after July 1, 2020. This extension is given with trust in the good faith and effort of the staff and students of AR Gould to work diligently to meet these benchmarks and is contingent upon an annual report to the Maine Department of Education regarding the school's progress toward meeting the requirements of Maine Revised Statutes 20-A §4722-A. This annual report will be embedded in the annual extension renewal process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Rachelle Tome".

Rachelle Tome, Acting Commissioner
Maine Department of Education