



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

RACHELLE TOME
ACTING COMMISSIONER

December 23, 2014

Jay McIntire
Superintendent of Schools
Brewer School Department
261 Center Street
Brewer, ME 04412

Dear Superintendent McIntire:

This letter acknowledges receipt of Brewer School Department's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Brewer High School. The Department commends you for your efforts to advance proficiency-based education. Your efforts to transition are clearly aligned with Brewer High School's Five Year Improvement Plan (2013-2018) Plan.

Given the evidence provided in the application, the Maine DOE has reservations about the district's readiness in the Fall 2014 to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements in Extension Option 4 in all content areas (with the exception of World Languages) and the Guiding Principles and recommends that you consider resubmitting an application for Extension Option 3. Extension Option 3 will give you the time needed to refine the work in the areas describe in your 2014-2015 benchmarks and Lead Objectives of the Brewer High School Five Year Improvement (2013-2018) Plan. The annual renewal process will give you an opportunity to evaluate your progress and determine if you may be ready to apply for Extension Option 4 in June 2015.

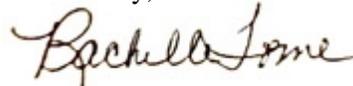
If you do not seek an alternate application, the Maine DOE recommends the following adjustments and actions would be needed for Brewer School Department's application to be aligned to the criteria in the requested extension option:

- Evidence of supports in the system of Personal Learning Plans for students who want to accelerate at a quicker pace through the program of study.
- Evidence of a system of supports for students designed to close gaps in achievement towards proficiency.
- Evidence of alignment of Brewer's graduation standards and performance indicators with the rigor and intent of the reporting standards guidance offered by Maine DOE in the following content areas (ELA, mathematics, science, health education, VPA- Maine DOE content specialist are available to provide guidance)
- Evidence of previously piloted assessments to verify proficiency, aligned to curriculum in all content areas (with the exception of World Languages) and the Guiding Principles for all secondary grades, in place the fall of 2014.
- Evidence that the reporting system is ready to report student proficiency in all content areas and the Guiding Principles in all secondary grades in the fall of 2014.

- Evidence that a student who has demonstrated proficiency in all ELA, mathematics, and science and technology standards earlier than the expected timeline will engage in educational learning experiences relating to English language arts in each remaining year of the student's secondary schooling.
- Evidence that all components in Brewer School Department's graduation policy are aligned with awarding proficiency-based diplomas representing preparedness for career and college experience in all content areas without the need for remediation.

Please provide the requested evidence and/or submit an application for a different extension option by 8am, January 12, 2015. If the Maine DOE does not receive the requested materials within the stated timeframe, we will assume that Brewer School Department is moving forward with the submitted extension plan notwithstanding the recommendations for adjustments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachelle Tome".

Rachelle Tome, Acting Commissioner
Maine Department of Education

