



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. DESJARDIN
ACTING COMMISSIONER

December 30, 2014

Mark Jenkins
Superintendent of Schools
Deer Isle-Stonington CSD #13
251 N. Deer Isle Road
Deer Isle, ME 04627

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

This letter acknowledges receipt of Deer Isle-Stonington CSD #13's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Deer Isle-Stonington High School. The evidence provided with Deer Isle-Stonington's application indicates you are working diligently to build a K-12 proficiency-based system and the Department commends you for your systemic efforts and innovative thinking with your pathways and Bridge Course. Building a K-12 proficiency-based system is a laudable task and takes time to develop, build capacity, pilot, refine, and implement all components at each level.

Given the evidence of the remaining six steps of development for the high school provided in the application, the Maine DOE has reservations about the district's readiness to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements in Extension 2 and recommends that you consider resubmitting an application for Extension Option 3. The criteria in this extension are more closely aligned with the evidence submitted with your application. You may or may not need the full time offered in Extension Option 3 and will not be penalized if you are ready to award proficiency-based diplomas before July 1, 2020. The extension renewal process provides an opportunity to reassess preparedness each year and select the option that best fits your progress.

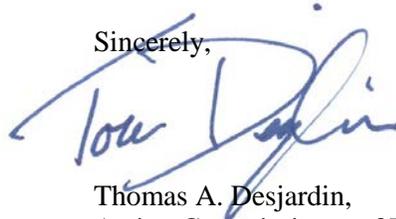
If you do not seek an alternate application, the Maine DOE recommends the following adjustments and actions would be needed for Deer Isle-Stonington's application to be aligned to the criteria in the requested extension option:

- Evidence of essential/graduation standards and performance indicators at the high school level for each of the 8 content areas that represent the comprehensive collection of core ideas at the complexity and cognitive demand described in the guidance offered by Maine DOE content specialists
- Evidence that Deer Isle-Stonington's Six Steps of Reaching Proficiency have been completed for grades 9-12 and are currently under refinement/piloting
- Evidence of the criteria and the methodology for determining proficiency in the standards of the 5 Guiding Principles is developed and currently under refinement/piloting
- Evidence of staff training in using JumpRope

- Evidence of a system of supports for students that closes achievement gaps
- Evidence of a plan for a student who has demonstrated proficiency in all ELA, mathematics, and science and technology graduation standards earlier than the expected timeline will engage in educational learning experiences relating to these content areas in each remaining year of the student's secondary schooling

Please provide the requested evidence and/or submit an application for a different extension option by 8 am on January 19, 2015. If the Maine DOE does not receive the requested materials within the stated timeframe, we will assume that Deer Isle-Stonington is moving forward with the submitted extension plan notwithstanding the recommendations for adjustments. Please contact Diana Doiron (diana.doiron@maine.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Desjardin", written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Thomas A. Desjardin,
Acting Commissioner of Education