



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. DESJARDIN
ACTING COMMISSIONER

March 16, 2015

Tim Doak
Superintendent of Schools
MSAD 27
84 Pleasant Street
Fort Kent, ME 04743

Dear Superintendent Doak:

This letter acknowledges receipt of MSAD 27's application for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Community High School. The Department commends you for your efforts to advance proficiency based education. You have already implemented important changes to support this paradigm shift to proficiency-based diplomas. Included among these changes are:

- Evidence of adopted policies (IK,IKE,IKF,IKAB)
- Evidence of criteria for the Self-directed and Lifelong Learner (Expectations for Learning Grades 7-12)
- Evidence that students have access to multiple pathways
- Evidence that a reporting mechanism to report proficiency is in the process of being implemented

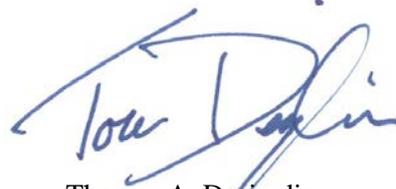
We understand that you will continue the proficiency-based implementation at the high school and we support and encourage you to proceed further with this important work.

Maine DOE is charged with assessing whether or not the district has met all the proficiency-based graduation requirements needed to approve MSAD 27's Extension 4. We have identified the following evidence that would be necessary for our granting of your current application.

- Evidence of alignment of MSAD 27's grades 9-10 and 11-12 power standards and Cornerstone assessments align with the complexity and cognitive demand of Maine's ELA and mathematics standards. (Maine DOE ELA and mathematics content specialists will be able to indicate specific areas of concern)
- Description (including opportunity for students to access this support) for the current practices and protocols designed to close achievement gaps
- Evidence of the proficiency criteria for Clear and Effective Communicator
- Evidence of an adopted policy for eligibility to participate in cocurricular activities
- Evidence of performance level descriptors for the Senior Project scoring guide/rubric

There are just a few months remaining before the June 30th deadline for renewing application requests. During this period of time before the release of the applications, taking the time to reflect on and gather evidence for the above bullets may be helpful in informing MSAD 27's decision regarding which application option is the best fit for your journey to awarding a proficiency-based diploma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Desjardin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Thomas A. Desjardin
Acting Commissioner of Education