



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

RACHELLE TOME
ACTING COMMISSIONER

December 4, 2014

Craig King
Superintendent of Schools
RSU 10
33 Nash Street
Dixfield, ME 04224

Dear Superintendent King:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 10's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements. The information and evidence presented in RSU 10's request for Extension Option 3 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 Buckfield Junior/Senior High School, Dirigo High School, and Mountain Valley High 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 administrative unit is prepared sooner to award a proficiency-based diploma representing readiness for college and career experiences without the need for remediation in the eight content areas and the Guiding Principles.

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 RSU 10 to work diligently to meet these benchmarks and is contingent upon an annual report to the Maine Department of Education regarding the school administrative unit'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 cursive script that reads "Rachelle Tome".

Rachelle Tome, Acting Commissioner
Maine Department of Education