



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

John McDonald
Superintendent of Schools
RSU 13
28 Lincoln ST
Rockland, ME 04841

Dear Superintendent McDonald:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 13's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Oceanside West High School and Oceanside East High School. The Department commends you for your efforts to advance proficiency-based education.

Given the evidence provided in the application, the Maine DOE has reservations about the district's readiness for proficiency-based graduation requirements in all eight content areas and the Guiding Principles required 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 (2021 Cohort). The extension renewal process provides an opportunity to reassess preparedness each year and select the option that best fits your progress.

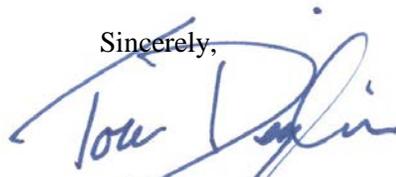
If you do not seek an alternate application, the Maine DOE recommends the following adjustments and actions would be needed for RSU 13's application to be aligned to the criteria in the requested extension option:

- Evidence of graduation standards and performance indicators for ELA, science and technology, social studies, health education, physical education, visual and performing arts, world languages, and career and education development 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 of assessments aligned to the complexity and cognitive demand of the standards of the eight content areas (one example of an assessment and its rubric for each content area)
- Evidence of the methodology for determining proficiency in the standards of the 5 Guiding Principles
- Evidence of supports for students who want to accelerate at a quicker pace and demonstrate proficiency of the graduation standards and performance indicators in any content area

- Evidence of a system of supports for students that close gaps in achievement towards proficiency in any content area
- Evidence of multiple pathways for students to attain proficiency
- Evidence of RSU 13's adopted IKF Graduation Policy and evidence of the timeline for adopting policies pertaining to the opportunity to learn and demonstrate proficiency in the 8 content areas and the Guiding Principles for the 2019 Cohort (e.g. IKA, IKAB, IKE,IHC, IJJ)

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 RSU 13 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 circular stamp.

Thomas A. Desjardin,
Acting Commissioner of Education