



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.
COMMISSIONER

October 31, 2014

Gregory G. Potter
Superintendent of Schools
RSU 19
PO Box 40
Newport, ME 04953

Dear Superintendent Potter:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 19's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Nokomis Regional 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 to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements in Extension Option 2 and recommends that you consider resubmitting an application for Extension Option 5. The criteria in this extension are more closely aligned with the evidence submitted with your application.

If you do not seek an alternate application, the Maine DOE recommends the following six adjustments and actions would be needed for RSU 19's application to be aligned to the criteria in the requested Extension Option 2:

- Evidence of graduation/reporting standards for English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health education that represent the comprehensive collection of the core ideas at the high school level in these content areas and alignment of learning experiences to these standards
- Evidence that during the 2014-2015 school year, a system is established and piloted to verify proficiency in each of the standards of the eight content areas
- Evidence that during the 2014-2015 school year, a system is established and piloted to verify proficiency in each of the standards of the Guiding Principles
- Evidence students are allowed to gain proficiency through multiple pathways
- Evidence of a fully developed system of supports in place for students when proficiency is not demonstrated



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- Evidence that during the 2014-2015 school year, full-year individual proficiency reports will be produced and reviewed under the conditions of a pilot

Please provide the requested evidence and/or submit an application for a different extension option in the next 10 business days. If the Maine DOE does not receive the requested materials within the stated timeframe, we will assume that RSU 19 is moving forward with the submitted extension plan notwithstanding the recommendations for adjustments.

Sincerely,

James E. Rier, Jr., Commissioner
Maine Department of Education