



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

RACHELLE TOME  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

December 22, 2014

Brian Carpenter  
Superintendent of Schools  
RSU 20  
PO Box 363  
Belfast, ME 04915

Dear Superintendent Carpenter:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 20's application to confirm readiness of Searsport High School to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements. The Department commends you for ten years of effort to advance proficiency-based education.

The application was missing information regarding the use of the FY 14 targeted transition funds and FY 15 funds beyond the \$12,000 for teacher/staff per diem. The fax transmission of the social studies standards were difficult to read in places. Would you email a copy of them? Please submit this information to Diana Doiron ([diana.doiron@maine.gov](mailto:diana.doiron@maine.gov)) by January 12, 2015, 8am.

Given the evidence submitted, the Maine DOE has reservations regarding the rigor of the secondary learning expectations for all pathways to a proficiency-based diploma offered at Searsport High School. The Department seeks assurance and evidence that Searsport High School's metric for proficiency in all pathways honors preparedness for post-secondary experiences without the need for remediation. Without this assurance and evidence, the Department recommends that you consider the time offered in Extension Option 3. 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 aligned with the rigor of the secondary standards before July 1, 2020.

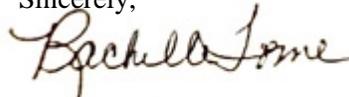
If you do not seek an alternate application, the Maine DOE recommends the following adjustments and actions would be needed for Searsport High School's application to be aligned to the criteria in the Confirmation of Readiness application.

- Evidence of alignment of Searsport High School's standards to the reporting standards and performance indicators in all 8 content areas offered as guidance on the Department's *Getting to Proficiency* website.
- Criteria for proficiency of the standards of the five Guiding Principles and methodology for determining proficiency
- One sample assessment and rubric used to determine proficiency from each of the 8 content areas

- Evidence of a system of supports for students that close achievement gaps
- Evidence that a student who has demonstrated proficiency in the standards of ELA, mathematics, and science and technology earlier than the expected timeframe for receiving a proficiency-based diploma will engage in educational experiences relating to each content area ( ELA, mathematics, or science and technology) in which they are proficient in each remaining year of the student's secondary schooling.

Please provide the requested evidence and/or submit an application for an extension option by January 12, 2015, 8 am. If the Maine DOE does not receive the requested materials within the stated timeframe, we will assume that Searsport High School is moving forward with the submitted confirmation of readiness plan notwithstanding the recommendations for adjustments. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Doiron ([diana.doiron@maine.gov](mailto:diana.doiron@maine.gov)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachelle Tome".

Rachelle Tome, Acting Commissioner  
Maine Department of Education