



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

RACHELLE TOME
ACTING COMMISSIONER

December 3, 2014

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools
RSU 22
24 Main Road North
Hampden, ME 04444

Dear Superintendent Lyons:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 22's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Hampden Academy. 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 1 and recommends that you consider resubmitting an application for Extension Option 2. 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 adjustments and actions would be needed for RSU 22's application to be aligned to the criteria in the requested extension option:

- Evidence of previously piloted assessments to verify proficiency, aligned to curriculum in all content areas and for all secondary grades, in place the fall of 2014.
- Evidence of supports for students who want to accelerate at a quicker pace through the program of study.
- Evidence of a system of supports for students designed to close gaps in achievement towards proficiency.
- Evidence that the reporting system is ready to report student proficiency of RSU 22's Educate Standards in all secondary grades in the fall of 2014.
- Evidence that a student who has demonstrated proficiency in all ELA priority standards earlier than the expected timeline will engage in educational learning experiences relating to English language arts in each remaining year of the student's secondary schooling.

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 22 is moving forward with the submitted extension plan notwithstanding the recommendations for adjustments.

Sincerely,

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

Rachelle Tome, Acting Commissioner
Maine Department of Education