



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. DESJARDIN  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

March 16, 2015

Suzanne Lukas  
Superintendent of Schools  
RSU 24  
248 State Street, Suite 3A  
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Dear Superintendent Lukas:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 24's application for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Sumner Memorial High School. The Department commends you for your efforts to advance proficiency-based education. You have already implemented important changes to support this paradigm shift to proficiency-based diplomas. Included among these changes are:

- Evidence of adopted policies ( IKD, IKD-A, IKF, IKA, IKF-F)
- Evidence of an online grade book for reporting proficiency
- Evidence of criteria for determining proficiency of the standards of the Guiding Principles
- Evidence of refinement underway to support all 2019 Cohort students who want to accelerate at a quicker pace through the secondary opportunities for learning
- Evidence the system of supports is being refined to close achievement gaps
- Evidence of a developed World Language program aligned to the complexity and cognitive demand of the Maine's World Language standards and performance indicators

We understand that you will continue the proficiency-based implementation across the RSU in all grades and we support and encourage you to proceed further with this important work.

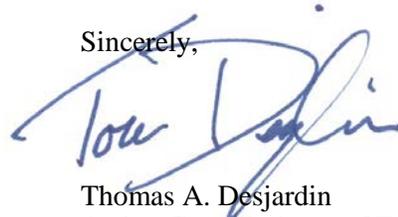
Maine DOE is charged with assessing whether or not the district has met all the proficiency-based graduation requirements needed to approve RSU 24's Extension 2. We have identified the following evidence that would be necessary for our granting of your current application.

- Evidence of reporting standards and performance indicators that represent the comprehensive collection of core ideas at the complexity and cognitive demand of Maine's exiting high school standards (English language arts, health education, science and technology, and social studies. \*Due to unexpected circumstance at the DOE, we were unable to review RSU 24's visual and performing arts standards and assessments at this moment in time.)

- Evidence of assessments and their scoring criteria for determining proficiency at the complexity and cognitive demand of Maine's exiting high school standards in the content areas of health education, social studies, physical education, and mathematics.
- Evidence that the opportunity to learn and demonstrate proficiency in any RSU 24 pathway is at the complexity and cognitive demand of Maine's high school standards.
- Evidence of an adopted policy that address eligibility for co-curricular activities.

There are just a few months remaining before the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for renewing application requests. During this period of time before the release of the applications, taking the time to reflect on and gather evidence for the above bullets may be helpful in informing RSU 24's renewal of a proficiency-based extension option.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Desjardin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Thomas A. Desjardin  
Acting Commissioner of Education