



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.
COMMISSIONER

November 7, 2014

Joanne Harriman
Superintendent of Schools
RSU 26
10 Goodridge Drive
Orono, ME 04473

Dear Superintendent Harriman:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 26's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements. The information and evidence presented in RSU 26's request for Extension Option 6 gives the Department reasonable confidence that the benchmarks established for the 2014 -2015 school year will be met and will inform the development of benchmarks for the 2015-2016 school year. Meeting these benchmarks will support Orono High School's progress toward the awarding of a proficiency-based diploma based on secondary school standards after July 1, 2020. There are no penalties if you discover your school administrative unit is prepared sooner to award a proficiency-based diploma.

Under a provision in Maine's Basic School Approval Statutes (Maine Revised Statutes 20-A §4502, subsection 8), I grant a waiver of the requirement to award proficiency-based diplomas after January 1, 2018 and extend the time to transition to proficiency-based graduation requirements to after July 1, 2020. This extension is given with trust in the good faith and effort of the staff and students of RSU 26 to work diligently to meet these benchmarks and is contingent upon an annual report to the Maine Department of Education regarding the school administrative units progress toward meeting the requirements of Maine Revised Statutes 20-A §4722-A. This annual report will be embedded in the annual extension renewal process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James E. Rier, Jr.", written over a light blue horizontal line.

James E. Rier, Jr.,
Commissioner of Education