



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

RACHELLE TOME
ACTING COMMISSIONER

December 2, 2014

Steven B. Connolly
Superintendent of Schools
MSAD 60
PO Box 819
North Berwick, ME 03906

Dear Superintendent Connolly:

This letter acknowledges receipt of MSAD 60's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements. The information and evidence presented in MSAD 60's request for Extension Option 4 gives the Department reasonable confidences that Noble High School is prepared to award diplomas representing proficiency (at Noble High School's distinguished and advanced proficiency levels) in the secondary standards of the English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health education, physical education, visual and performing arts, career and education development, and the Guiding Principles in 2018.

The Department seeks assurance that Noble High School's basic proficiency level honors preparedness for post-secondary college and career experiences without the need for remediation and requests that evidence to support this assurance be submitted with the annual extension renewal application in June 2015.

With regards to world languages, the Department has 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 MSAD 60's progress toward the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) intermediate mid as the targeted level of proficiency to be attained for the high school diploma 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 include proficiency in the secondary standards of world languages for the proficiency-based diplomas awarded after January 1, 2018 and extend the time to transition to the proficiency-based world language graduation requirement to after July 1, 2020. This extension is given with trust in the good faith and effort of the staff and students of MSAD 60 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 cursive script that reads "Rachelle Tome".

Rachelle Tome, Acting Commissioner
Maine Department of Education