



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

Kenneth J. Healey
RSU 73
9 Cedar Street
Livermore Falls, ME 04254

Dear Superintendent Healey:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 73's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements. The information and evidence presented in RSU 73'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 Spruce Mountain 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 representing readiness for career and college experience without the need for remediation in all content areas.

Please note: Based on the budget submitted in the application, the Department is assuming RSU 73's FY 15 Targeted Transition Fund allocation of \$15, 513.78 will be expended toward proficiency-based education professional development with no carry over. If this is not accurate, please submit a budget for the FY 15 Targeted Transition Fund allocation to Diana Doiron (diana.doiron@maine.gov) by January 12, 2015, 8 am.

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 73 to work diligently to meet these benchmarks and is contingent upon an annual report to the Maine Department of Education regarding the school administrative unit's 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