



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. DESJARDIN
ACTING COMMISSIONER

December 29, 2014

Kenneth Coville
Superintendent of Schools
RSU 74
56 North Maine Street
North Anson, ME 04958

Dear Superintendent Coville:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 74's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Carrabec High School. 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 4 and recommends that you consider resubmitting an application for Extension Option 3. The criteria in this extension are more closely aligned with the evidence submitted with your application and will include the middle school implementation plan. You may or may not need the full time offered in Extension Option 3 and will not be penalized if you are ready to award proficiency-based diplomas before July 1, 2020 (2021 Cohort).

If you do not seek an alternate application, the Maine DOE recommends the following adjustments and actions would be needed for RSU 74's application to be aligned to the criteria in the requested extension option:

- Evidence of alignment of RSU 74's graduation standards, performance indicators, rubrics, and assessments to the complexity and cognitive demand of the reporting standards offered by Maine DOE in ELA and mathematics (Maine DOE content specialist are available to provide guidance)
- Evidence of supports for students who want to accelerate at a quicker pace through the ELA and mathematics programs of study.
- Evidence of a system of supports for students designed to close gaps in achievement towards proficiency in ELA and mathematics.
- Evidence of previously piloted assessments to verify proficiency, aligned to the complexity and rigor of ELA and mathematics reporting standards, in place the fall of 2014.

Please provide the requested evidence and/or submit an application for a different extension option by 8 am on January 12, 2015. If the Maine DOE does not receive the requested materials within the stated timeframe, we will assume that RSU 74 is moving forward with the submitted extension plan notwithstanding the recommendations for adjustments.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Desjardin, Acting Commissioner
Maine Department of Education