



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

Virgil Hammonds
Superintendent of Schools
RSU 2
7 Reed Street
Hallowell, ME 04347

Dear Superintendent Hammonds:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 2's application for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Hall-Dale High School, Monmouth Academy, and Richmond 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 (AD, IKE, IKF, IKA)
- Evidence of standards-based, learner-centered structures and commitments

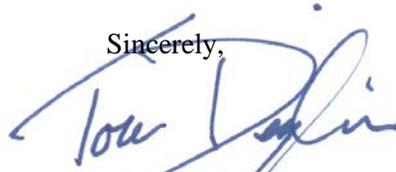
We understand that you will continue the proficiency-based implementation across the RSU in all grades and we support and encourage you to proceed further with this important work.

Maine DOE is charged with assessing whether or not the district has met all the proficiency-based graduation requirements needed to approve RSU 2's Extension 1. We have identified the follow evidence that would be necessary for our granting of your current application.

- Evidence of adopted policies addressing multiple pathways to attain proficiency and eligibility to participate in co-curricular activities
- Evidence of current practices and protocols designed to close student achievement gaps
- Evidence of sample assessments and their taxonomy level for learning goals in each content area at the proficiency level required for graduation.
- Evidence that the learning goals in the graduation proficiency levels represent the complexity and cognitive demand required in the exiting high school standards of Maine's system of learning results. (After careful review, the Department's content specialist have noted some areas of concern that they would like to discuss with RSU 2)

There are just a few months remaining before the June 30th 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 2'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