



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. DESJARDIN
ACTING COMMISSIONER

December 31, 2014

David Walker
Superintendent of Schools
RSU #34
156 Oak Street
Old Town, ME 04468

Dear Superintendent Walker:

This letter acknowledges receipt of MSAD #34's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Old Town 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 for extension option 3 and recommends that you consider resubmitting an application for extension option 5. The criteria in this extension are more closely aligned with the evidence submitted with your application.

If you do not seek an alternate application, the Maine DOE requests the following additional evidence and adjustments would be needed for MSAD #34's application to be aligned to the criteria in the requested extension option 3:

- Timeline and metrics to assess predicted progress toward high school implementation
- Plans and benchmarks for continued professional development to support the capacity building work that was begun in 2014
- Documents that support the reported statements of middle school implementation
- Description of the means of assessing the Guiding Principles aligned to the intended rigor
- Alignment of curriculum showing the intended rigor and comprehensiveness of the standards of the content areas

Please provide the requested evidence and/or submit an application for a different extension option in the next 10 business days (by 8:00 A.M. on January 19, 2015). If the Maine DOE does not receive the requested materials within the stated timeframe, we will assume that RSU #34 is moving forward with the submitted extension plan notwithstanding the recommendations for adjustments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tom Desjardin'.

Thomas A. Desjardin
Acting Commissioner of Education