



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

RACHELLE TOME
ACTING COMMISSIONER

November 26, 2014

William Michaud and Michael Lafortune
Superintendents of Schools
RSU 5
17 West ST
Freeport, ME 04032

Dear Superintendents Michaud and Lafortune:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 5's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements. The information and evidence presented in RSU 5's request for Extension Option 2 gives the Department reasonable confidence that the benchmarks established for the 2014 -2015 school year will be met and prepare Freeport High School to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements based on secondary school standards after July 1, 2018. We recognize that you are refining your assessments this year, and ask that you check to ensure the evidence the students generate is at the same caliber of rigor as the standards to which the assessment is aligned. As you refine your system, we ask that you monitor the capacity to offer all students the opportunity to learn a World Language to the Maine DOE identified targeted proficiency level of American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) intermediate mid.

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, 2018. This extension is given with trust in the good faith and effort of the staff and students of RSU 5 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 Confirmation of Readiness application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachelle Tome".

Rachelle Tome, Acting Commissioner
Maine Department of Education