



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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ACTING COMMISSIONER

March 17, 2015

Susan A. Pratt
Superintendent of Schools
RSU 78
43 Mendolia Road
Rangeley, ME 04970

Dear Superintendent Pratt:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 78's application for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements at Rangeley Lakes Regional 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 (IKE, IKF)
- Evidence of RLRS Scoring and Reporting Philosophy
- Evidence of RLRS system of supports is designed to close gaps in achievement towards proficiency
- Evidence of graduation/reporting standards and performance indicators in career and education development, social studies, mathematics, and physical education that represent the comprehensive collection of core ideas at the level of complexity and cognitive demand of Maine's learning standards
- Evidence of an assessment and its scoring criteria for proficiency in social studies and physical education representing the complexity and cognitive demand of the aligned standard(s) in the content area.

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.

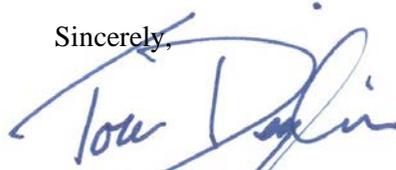
Maine DOE is charged with assessing whether or not the district has met all the proficiency-based graduation requirements needed to approve RSU 78's Extension 1. We have identified the following evidence that would be necessary for our granting of your current application.

- Evidence of adopted policies addressing: multiple pathways to attain proficiency, eligibility to participate in co-curricular activities, grading, assessment, reporting and progress reports.

- Evidence of further refinement of graduation/reporting standards and performance indicators in English language arts, science and technology, world languages, and health education that represent the comprehensive collection of core ideas at the level of complexity and cognitive demand in those content areas. (The Maine DOE content specialists in these content areas see places where there are some omissions of key information.)
- Evidence of sample summative assessments and their scoring criteria for proficiency in English language arts, mathematics, science and technology, world languages, and health education representing the complexity and cognitive demand of the aligned standard(s) in that content area.
- Evidence of descriptions of multiple pathways available for students.

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 78's renewal of a proficiency-based extension option.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Desjardin
Acting Commissioner of Education