



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.
COMMISSIONER

October 31, 2014

Virginia Rebar
Superintendent of Schools
RSU 83/MSAD13
PO Box 649
Bingham, ME 04920

Dear Superintendent Rebar:

This letter acknowledges receipt of RSU 83's request for an extension to meet the proficiency-based graduation requirements. The information and evidence presented in RSU 83's request for Extension Option 6 gives the Department reasonable confidence that the benchmarks established for the 2014 -2015 school year will be met and will inform the development of benchmarks for the 2015-2016 school year. Meeting these benchmarks will support RSU 83's progress toward the awarding of a proficiency-based diploma based on secondary school standards to the graduating class of 2021. There are no penalties if you discover your school administrative unit is prepared before July 1, 2020 to award a proficiency-based diploma.

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 by January 1, 2018 and extend the time to transition to proficiency-based graduation requirements to the graduating class of 2021. This extension is given with trust in the good faith and effort of the staff and students of RSU 83 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 annual extension renewal process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'James E. Rier, Jr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

James E. Rier, Jr., Commissioner
Maine Department of Education