

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A. THROUGH 2005-2006

As a minimum for graduation from high school, the prospective graduate must successfully complete a total of 19 one-year course equivalents (credits) at the secondary level (grades 9 through 12).

Twelve and one-half (12 ½) required credits are specified by the State of Maine. They are:

1. English – 4 credits;
2. Social Studies and History; including American History and Government – 2 credits;
3. Mathematics – 2 credits;
4. Science, including at least one year of laboratory study – 2 credits;
5. Fine arts, which may include art, music, forensics or drama – 1 credit;
6. Health – ½ credit;
7. Physical Education – 1 credit.

The State also requires that students demonstrate knowledge of computer skills according to the school unit's standards for computer literacy, proficiency and performance.

In addition to the State requirements, the Board has the following graduation requirements:

The remaining credits may be selected by the student based upon the student's interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.

A student may receive one-half (1/2) credit for each 3 credit hour college level course completed--credit may be used for graduation purposes.

In order for a student to participate in graduation, the student must have successfully completed all of the above-listed requirements.

A student who is deficient in the above-listed requirements may meet those requirements through a post-secondary course(s), a State-approved Adult Education course(s), a State-approved summer school program, or a distance learning or correspondence course(s) at the discretion of the Principal, Superintendent and School Committee. (There is a limit of two credits from correspondence courses, which may be counted for graduation.) Upon successful completion of the requirements, the student may elect to do one of the following:

1. Receive his/her diploma immediately without participation in any graduation exercises.

2. Participate in the next graduation exercises.

Students who have accepted early admission at the collegiate level may graduate with their class if they inform the Principal at the time of their acceptance into the early admissions program.

B. BEGINNING 2006-2007

Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, students will be required to meet the content standard of the system of learning results in order to receive a high school diploma. The new requirements will be phased in over the course of four years, with full implementation of the content standards in the 2009-2010 school year.

STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2006-2007

In order to receive a high school diploma, students graduating in 2006-2007 or otherwise intending to graduate in 2006-2007, are required to meet the content standards of the system of learning results in English/language arts and mathematics, as determined by the local assessment system as well as all requirements in A.

STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2007-2008 OR 2008-2009

In order to receive a high school diploma, students graduating in 2007-2008 or 2008-2009 or otherwise intending to graduate in 2007-2008 or 2008-2009, are required to meet the content standards of the system of learning results in English/language arts, mathematics, social studies and history, science, technology and health, as determined by the local assessment system as well as all requirements in A.

STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2009-2010

In order to receive a high school diploma, students graduating in 2009-2010 or otherwise intending to graduate in 2009-2010, are required to meet the content standards of the system of learning results in English/language arts, mathematics, social studies and history, science, technology, health, visual and performing arts, career preparation and modern and classical languages as determined by the local assessment system, as well as, all requirements in A.

C. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Transfer Students: For students who transfer to Jonesport-Beals High School from another state or from an educational program that is not required to meet the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the Jonesport-Beals High School principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience towards achieving the standards in a manner consistent with the school unit's Local Assessment System and applicable Board policies.

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- B. Students Receiving Special Education Services: Students who successfully meet the content standards of the Learning Results, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.
- [NOTE: At this time, there is uncertainty about whether PETs will have the authority to waive or modify the content standards in any way. MSMA's legal counsel supports the interpretation of the law that special education students will have to meet the same content standards as all other students in order to receive diplomas, although how they achieve them and how they are assessed could be modified by the PET. This is an important issue that has not yet been resolved.]**
- C. Early Awarding of Diplomas: A student who has met the State's and the Board's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.
- D. Certificate of Attendance: The Board may provide a student who leaves school without meeting the standards of the Learning Results with a Certificate of Attendance, provided that the student has attended for four years, as a full-time student. This certificate acknowledges participation in the educational program for a specific period of time and includes a record of the student's course credits and Learning Results proficiency.
- E. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas: At the Superintendent's discretion, a student who leaves school to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education may, upon satisfactory completion of the freshman year, be awarded a high school diploma, although he/she may not have met all diploma requirements.
- F. Extended Study: Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if they have not reached the age of 20 at the start of the school year. Students eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other resources suitable to young learners. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan.
- G. Participation in Graduation Ceremony: A student must complete all requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.

A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection. In addition, a copy of this policy will be included in the student handbook.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)
Commissioner's Informational Letter #25 – 11/15/02

DATE ADOPTED: JULY 1, 2003