

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents/guardians prior to the start of their ninth grade school year, and as soon as practicable when there is of any change in State-imposed standards that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma. A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection and will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook.

The school unit's instructional program is aligned with the content standards of Maine's system of Learning Results. A diploma from Jonesport-Beals High School signifies that the graduate has completed the requirements described in Maine law and Board policy and that they are ready to enter a postsecondary educational program or a career as a clear and effective communicator, a self-directed and life-long learner, a creative and practical problem solver, a responsible and involved citizen and an informed and integrative thinker.

The Board has approved the following schedule of minimum requirements for graduation, which includes requirements specified by the State of Maine.

The Board expects the Superintendent/designee to inform students and parents/guardians as soon as practicable of any additional State-imposed standards that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma.

I. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR A JONESPORT-BEALS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

- A. The student must successfully complete a total of 22 full year courses/learning experiences, or the equivalent in standards achievement.

Of these courses/learning experiences, 11 (eleven) must be in the following subjects as specified in 20-A MRSA §4722(2). They are:

1. English/language arts – 4 years or the equivalent in standards achievement;
2. Mathematics – 2 years or the equivalent in standards achievement; Page 1 of 5
3. Social studies and history, including American history, government, civics, and personal finance – 2 years or the equivalent in standards achievement;

4. Science, including at least one year of laboratory study – 2 years or the equivalent in standards achievement;
 5. Fine arts, which may include art, music, forensics or drama – 1 year or the equivalent in standards achievement.
- B. One year course of physical education and 1 year course of health, or the equivalent in standards achievement.
- C. Demonstration of computer skills according to the school unit's standards for computer literacy, proficiency, and performance.
- D. In addition to the State requirements, the student must meet the following additional credit requirements established by the Board:
1. Math- one additional course(s);
 2. Science- one additional course(s);
 3. Social Studies and history- one additional course(s);
- E. The remaining courses/learning experiences may be selected by the student based on their interest, satisfaction of course prerequisites, and requirements of the field that they plan to enter upon graduation.

II. MULTIPLE PATHWAYS: ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF EARNING CREDITS

Students may also opt to earn credits toward a high school diploma through multiple additional pathways including:

Early college/dual enrollment courses

Career and technical education programming

Online/virtual learning

Apprenticeships, internships, and/or field work

Community service

Exchange programs

Independent study

Alternative education

Adult education

Each pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to the school unit's own educational offerings.

III. STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

All secondary students must achieve the content standards of the parameters for essential instruction of the system of Learning Results and graduation requirements established pursuant to Maine law. A student with a disability, as defined in 20-A MRSA § 7001(1-B) who satisfies the local diploma requirements in the manner specified by the student's IEP must be awarded a high school diploma.

IV. STUDENTS IN DUAL ENROLLMENT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A secondary student who has satisfactorily completed their junior and senior years in a dual enrollment career and technical education program formed pursuant to 20-A MRSA §6971-6975 may be eligible to receive a high school diploma from Jonesport-Beals High School, although the student may not meet the graduation requirements of 20-A MRSA §4722.

V. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA FROM JONESPORT-BEALS HIGH SCHOOL

This section applies to all students, in all graduation classes.

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 be aligned with 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 meeting graduation requirements.

B. Home-schooled Students

For previously home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Jonesport-Beals High School, the high school principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation credit requirements. A home schooled student must have attended Jonesport-Beals High School for a minimum of 6 trimesters

C. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

A student who leaves Jonesport-Beals High 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, provided that the student has notified the principal at the time of the early admission.

D. 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 will be awarded a diploma.

E. 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 IEP.

F. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must complete all Board requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.

G. Honors and Awards at Graduation

In order to be eligible for honors or awards based wholly or in part on academic achievement (e.g., valedictorian, salutatorian, class speaker, “Top 10”), a student must have been enrolled full time at Jonesport-Beals High School during the year for two years preceding graduation. Students who do not meet this enrollment requirement will not be “ranked” for the purpose of determining eligibility for graduation honors, awards, or scholarships.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 4502(8), 4722, 6209
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: IHCDA – Post-Secondary Enrollment Options

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