

RSU 82/MSAD 12 POLICY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

With the implementation of Maine's system of Learning Results, local assessment systems to measure student progress toward achievement of the content standards of the Learning Results, the phasing in of standards-based diploma requirements, and heightened community expectations for student learning, the Board recognizes the need to establish minimum standards for the awarding of a high school diploma that are consistent with State law and regulations and with community educational values and expectations.

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 prior to the start of their ninth grade school year. A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook.

The Board has approved this schedule of minimum requirements for graduation.

For the classes of 2007 through 2017

Of those credits, the following must be included:

4 credits of Social Science:

- 1 U.S. History
- 1 American Government
- 1 Contemporary History
- 1 Elective History

3 credits of Mathematics including

- 1 Algebra I
- 1 Geometry
- 1 Algebra II

1 credit of Computer Science

1 credit of Fine Arts

2 credits of Physical Education/Health/First Aide

3 credits in Science (1/2 year lab to be included)

* A.P. Biology and A.P. Chemistry courses will earn 2.0 credits per course

4 credits of English

*The remaining required credits will be selected from elective courses

*Maine studies (if not taken in grade 8) must be taken in addition

**Students planning to gain admission into a 4 year college are urged to take at least 2 years of a foreign language.

A student who is deficient in these requirements may meet these requirements through a post-secondary course, a State-approved adult education course, a State-approved summer school program, or a distance learning or correspondence course approved by the school principal in advance of registration. The student may participate in the next regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of the requirements.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year (the Class of 2010), diplomas will be awarded only to students who have met the content standards of all content areas of the system of Learning Results, as measured by the school unit's Local Assessment System. These content areas are: English/language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, health and physical education, career preparation, modern and classical languages, and visual and performing arts.

Diploma Requirements for Learners Graduating January 1, 2018 and Beyond

Learners must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma:

1. Learners must engage in educational experiences in English Language Arts; Mathematics; and Science and Technology in each year of high school.
2. Learners must demonstrate proficiency in meeting State standards in the following content areas (note that the Career and Educational Development content area is embedded with the listed content areas):
 - A. English Language Arts;
 - B. Social Studies;
 - C. Mathematics;
 - D. Science and Technology;
 - E. Visual and Performing Arts;
 - F. Health Education and Physical Education; and
3. Learners must demonstrate proficiency in each of the following Maine Department of Education Guiding Principles:
 - A. Clear and Effective communicator;
 - B. Self-directed and lifelong learner;
 - C. Creative and analytical problem solver;
 - D. Responsible and involved citizen; and
 - E. Integrative and informed thinker.
4. Learners must complete 40 hours of community service during high school.

(Eighth Grade Community Service Volunteer Time Special Exception -- During a student's eighth grade school year (July 1st to June 30th), community service hours performed exclusively at Forest Hills Consolidated School for non-extracurricular and co-curricular programs (e.g., Live2Learn, 5210 Lets Go with Farmer Joe Sustainable Agriculture Program, etc.) can be carried forward into high school and applied in full toward the High School Graduation requirement for community service. The student should complete the Community Service form found in their student handbook for approval prior to the beginning of service. It shall be incumbent on the adult staff member supervising such eighth grade community service activities to keep a record of the community service hours and, at the conclusion of the activity, to sign and complete the community service form and submit it to the principal's office.)

Learners may gain proficiency in the content standards and guiding principles through coursework as well as other learning experiences as allowed by law and high school guidelines. Multiple measures may be used to demonstrate proficiency (including but not limited to exams, teacher or student-designed assessments, portfolios, performances, exhibitions, projects and community service).

A. Transfer Students

For students who transfer to Forest Hills 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 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.

B. Home-schooled Students

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Forest Hills High School, the High School principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward achieving the content standards of the Learning Results in a manner consistent with the school unit's Local Assessment System and applicable Board policies.

C. 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.

Learners with special needs may earn a diploma by fulfilling State and local requirements as specified by the goals and objectives of their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

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 may be awarded a diploma.

E. 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.

F. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

At the Superintendent's discretion, a student who leaves Forest Hills 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, although he/she may not have met all diploma requirements.

G. 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.

H. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

Students who have completed all State and Board requirements for a high school diploma or have met the Board's requirements for a Certificate of Attendance may participate in graduation exercises.

I. 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 Forest Hills High School during the year 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.

Cross Reference: IKE – Learner Progress Through the Learning System
IHA – Basic Instructional Program
IHBGA – Home Schooling – Participation in School Programs

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722; 4722-A; 6209
Ch. 125, 127, 131, 132(Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Adopted: August 13, 2002

Revised: December 11, 2002

Revised: May 13, 2003

Revised: June 08, 2004

Revised: September 13, 2005

Revised: September 17, 2014

Revised: October 19, 2016