

## GRADUATION GUIDELINES

The intent of the system of learning results is that all students meet the applicable content standards, as well as may local requirements, in order to receive a high school diploma. Maine Department of Education regulations recognize that individual students may take fewer or more than the traditional four years to complete diploma requirements, and that some requirements can be met by programs or plans provided outside the regular course of study. Any such programs or plans must support students in meeting the content standards of the learning results required for graduation.

### **Exceptional Students**

The student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan shall address how diploma requirements will be met. Students who successfully meet the content standards of the learning results, as specified in the goals and objectives of their IEPs will be awarded diplomas.

### **External Courses**

With prior approval of the Principal, guidance counselor and parent/legal guardian, a student may enroll in external courses that support the student in meeting the content standards of the learning results. Students will be required to provide evidence of achievement of content standards.

### **Transfer Students**

When a high school student transfers from another state or from an educational program that is not required to meet the standards of the system of learning results, the Principal shall determine the value of the prior educational experience toward meeting the standards through the local assessment system. Students will be required to provide evidence of achievement of content standards.

### **Early Awarding of Diplomas**

A student who meets the applicable content standards of the learning results and completes the school unit's additional requirements in fewer than four years may be awarded a diploma early. Any student interested in pursuing this option must schedule a meeting with their parent/legal guardian and their guidance counselor to review the requirements and prepare a plan. The student's plan must be approved by the Principal, guidance counselor and the student's parents.

### **Extended Study**

A high school student is eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if he/she has not reached the age of 20 at the start of the school year. A student eligible for extended study may be referred to adult education or similar resources suitable to young adult learners.

**Delayed Awarding of Diplomas**

A high school student who last attended Falmouth High School, who has satisfactorily completed the freshman year in an accredited degree-granting institution of higher education may receive a diploma, although the student does not meet all diploma requirements specified in Maine Department of Education Chapter 127. Such decisions shall be made at the discretion of the superintendent.

Cross Reference: IKF – Graduation Requirements  
IHCDA – Post-Secondary Enrollment Options  
IHBGA – Home schooling – Participation in School Programs

Legal Reference: Chapters 127 and 130 (Maine Department of Education Rules)  
Maine Special Education Regulation 5.11

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