

Department Chair and Principal and 2) progress is monitored by a member of the High School's professional staff.

- E. Advanced courses or courses not available at Belfast Area High School may be taken at other secondary schools or at approved postsecondary institutions with the approval of the Guidance Counselor and Principal.
- F. A student may earn credits through independent study approved by the Guidance Counselor, Department Chair and Principal and monitored by the teacher(s) of the subject(s) to which the independent study is related.

SEARSPORT DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

- I. **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS' GRADUATION FROM SEARSPORT DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL**
 - A. Every student will demonstrate competency in meeting core standards that represent the following content areas. Meeting the core standards will mean earning a 3.0 or higher for each standard prior to graduation which will indicate the successful demonstration of the content standards in the Maine Learning Results as specified in units of study.
 - 1. English Language Arts (4 experiences)
 - 2. Math (4 experiences)
 - 3. Science and Technology (4 experiences)
 - 4. Social Studies (4 experiences)
 - 5. Physical Education (1 experience) and Health (1 experience)
 - 6. Visual and Performing Arts (2 experiences) OR World Languages (2 experiences)
* (if a student chooses WL, s/he must have 1 experience that addresses all VPA standards)
 - 7. Career and Education Development (embedded in the other six content areas)
 - B. Every student will complete 3 skill-based interventions/enhancements, one each in numeracy, literacy, and writing. ^
 - C. Every student will successfully complete a minimum of 2 elective experiences beyond the 22* core experiences. The total for graduation is 24*. The elective requirement will be met after the student demonstrates competency in meeting the core standards of the first two years of high school (or School 1) unless modified through a personal graduation plan. The elective experience can be additional public school course work or developed from Multiple Pathways (see #2, below). The student will meet standards in the elective(s), earning a 3.0 in each standard attached to the chosen elective experience(s), or s/he will fulfill criteria, approved by the school, taken from or developed through the Multiple Pathway experience(s).
- II. Every student is eligible to create a Multiple Pathway. (See I.A. under "Additional Considerations" in this policy.
- III. Every student will complete and submit an application to a post-secondary educational institution, training program, or other experience to provide an

opportunity for continued growth.

* Beginning with the graduating class of 2013. For graduating classes of 2010 – 2012, students will have 1 experience in Visual Performing Arts and no option for replacement with World Languages. The class of 2013 will go from a total of 24 core experiences to 25 and, from 22 to 23 experiences prior to taking electives.

^ For graduating classes of 2010 – 2012, these intervention/enhancement experiences can have been waived by the school.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA FROM RSU #20 HIGH SCHOOLS

- A. In order to create a Multiple Pathway to graduation a student must have a personal graduation plan detailing how the student will demonstrate competency when a Pathway is in lieu of core academic experiences. Each Pathway option provides a quality learning experience that is rigorous for individual student capacity. Multiple Pathway experiences will be determined, assessed, and documented through the school.

Pathway options include the following:

1. Career and Technical Education Programming
2. Online / Virtual Learning
3. Alternative / At-Risk Programming
4. Adult Education
5. Apprenticeships / Internships & Additional Field Work and/or Exchange Experiences
6. College and/or Dual Enrollment Courses

B. Transfer Students

For students who transfer to RSU #20 High Schools from another state, country, home schooling program, or from an educational program that is not required to be aligned with the content standards of the Maine Learning Results, the High School Principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience towards meeting graduation requirements for a High School diploma or Certificate of Attendance. These students will need to satisfy all credit requirements, assessment requirements, and proficiency requirements in the appropriated content subject areas. Unless approved by the Principal, all students must take Senior English and American Studies II at Belfast Area High School. The Superintendent will ultimately determine whether these students are certified to receive the appropriate diploma or certificate.

C. Home-schooled Students

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from RSU #20 high schools, the Principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation credit requirements. A home schooled student must have attended Belfast Area High School for a minimum of two (2) semesters in order to receive a Belfast Area High School diploma.

D. Students Receiving Special Education Services

Students who successfully meet the graduation requirements, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.

E. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

A student who leaves an RSU #20 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.

F. Early Awarding of Diplomas

Refer to policy file IKFA, Early Graduation.

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. Certificate of Completion

The Board may provide a certificate of completion to a student who leaves school having completed four years attendance as a full-time high school student and who has not met the Board's graduation requirements. This certificate acknowledges participation in the educational program for at least four years with an 85% attendance rate.

I. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

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

J. Honors and Awards at Graduation

Refer to policy file IKC, Class Rankings/Grade Point Averages

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: IHCDA – Post-Secondary Enrollment Options
IK – Assessment of Student Performances
IKC, Class Rankings/Grade Point Averages
IKFA - Early Graduation

Adopted: February 23, 2010